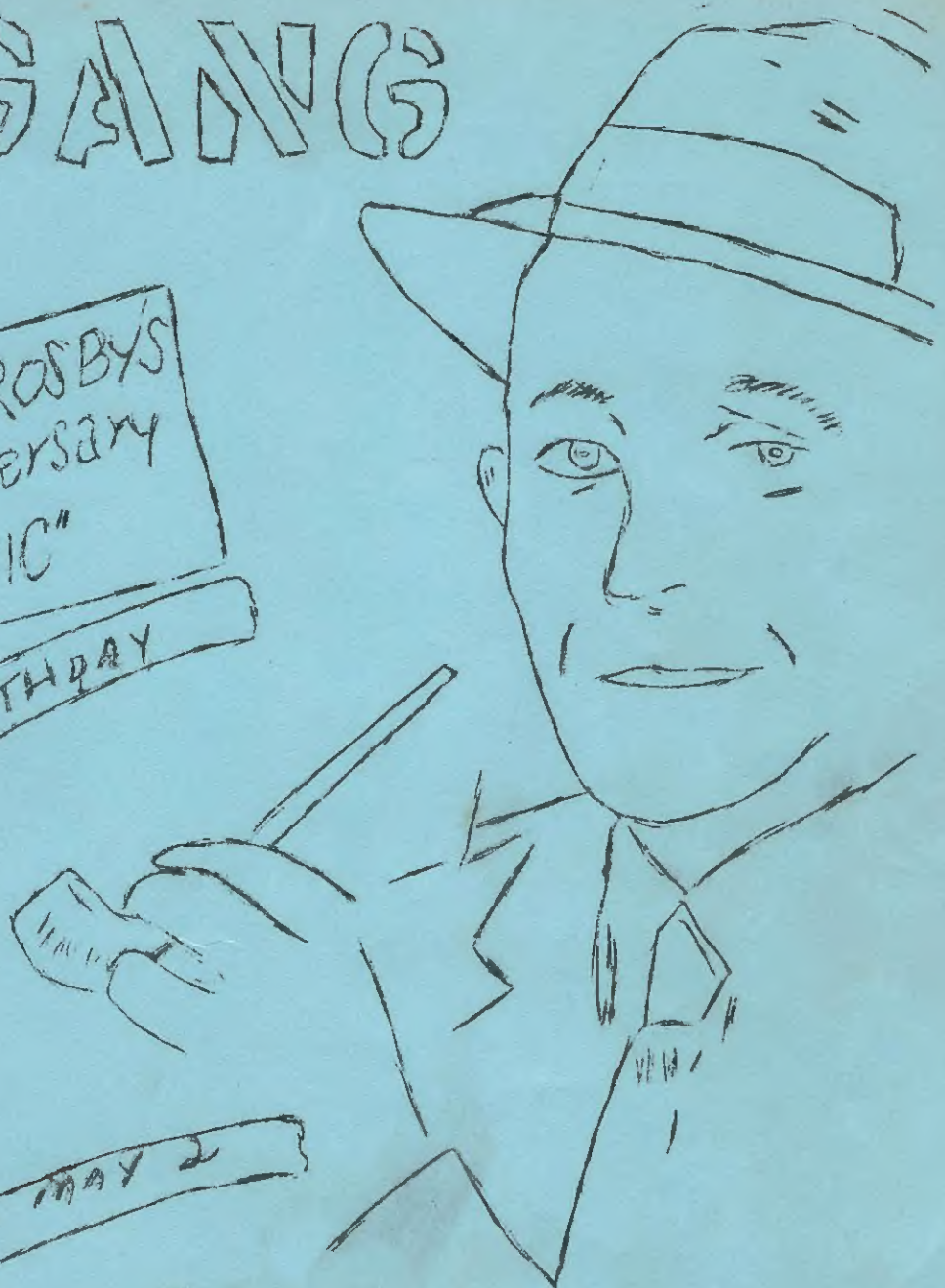


BINGANG

ITS BING CROSBY'S
30th Anniversary
AS "MR MUSIC"
HAPPY BIRTHDAY



TO BING - MAY 2

ITS CLUB CROSBY'S
25th Anniversary
1936-1951

MAY - 1961

BINGANG

Presented By

THE CLUB CROSBY

Vol. XVII

"Nothing But the Best"

May, 1961

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Membership dues:

\$1.25 plus 3 - 6¢ stamps

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An X on the address label means your membership expires with this issue of Bingang.

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Here at last is our 25th. anniversary issue of, Bingang. It may be a little late in reaching you, but it was quite a job, and putting it together took a little longer. I do hope you will find it both interesting and enjoyable.

I am very pleased to have a letter from Bing, in which each member of his office staff extends their congratulations.

I have put together a article, an titled it, "1931-1961 Thirty Years a Top Star". It contains three interesting reviews from Bing's first own radio show, with an accompanying snap on page 4. His performance at the New York Paramount, in 1931 which lasted 29 weeks. And the review from, "The Big Broadcast of 1932", Bing's first starring movie, with accompanying snap on page 6.

We have an article which was written by Ruth Ness our former President, for the 12th. anniversary issue, and repeated it for the 20th. (1956) anniversary. It covers the club from 1936-1948. Mary Maloney, our vice-president also wrote one for the 20th., (1944-1956). I have repeated both of these, with Mary's article being up to date now. I do hope they will both interest you.

There are also articles by, Priscilla Koernig, Elsie Schveer, Pearl Elliott, Shirley Naylor, Stan White and Frank Murphy, both of the British Crosby Society. Thanks once again to Doris Oke for a wonderful poems. Thank you once again to all the contributors of this 25th. anniversary issue.

I am very happy to have six snaps in this issue. The one on page 19, is of Bing and Barry Fitzgerald, in a scene from, "Going My Way". Page 26, Bing and Kathryn, page 31, Bing at the San Francisco Golf Tournament, page 38, six little snaps of Bing.

Crosby news hasn't been much with Bing taking things easy. After attending his own golf tournament, he went to the San Francisco Golf Tournament and also Palm Springs Tournament.

The Crosby Bros. are doing fine, and still on tour. Pat and Dennis as you probably know became the parents of a second boy, James Anthony, December 31st. Gary has been busy making movies for 20th. Century Fox. Two movies are complete, "The Right Approach", and "The Battle of Bloody Beach". Phil and Sandra are expecting their third child in May.

I want to tell foreign members that they have to send me an international money order instead of coupons, as the Post Office will not accept so many coupons. The money order should be for \$1.42.

I want to welcome our new members, and do hope you will all enjoy your stay with us:

Cliff Brisbois Jr. - 9012 Ensley Lane, Kansas City 15, Missouri
Edmond Kitchenman - 317 Charles Avenue, Bellmawr, New Jersey
Mrs. Clarence Scheuren - Box 12, Collegeville, Pennsylvania
Rajai Khuri - P.O. Box 3444, Beirut, Lebanon
Nick Fasci - c/o Music Mart Inc., 3933 Main Street, Kansas City 11, Missouri

I guess that's about all for now, I do hope you will go ahead and enjoy the journal, and please do let me know how you enjoy it. I do hope you will rejoin, the members whose dues have expired.

February 16, 1961

Miss Rena Albanesi, President
THE CLUB CROSBY
128 Kimball Terrace
Yonkers 4, New York

Dear Rena:

It is very gratifying to know our club members have stood by us for twenty five years. We appreciate it.

Also, to know our office has been cooperating with you - so maybe we should ask each of our staff to say something below so you all may become better acquainted:

"Congratulations on your 25th anniversary. You have a mighty fine club and you are doing a wonderful job."

Lillian Murphy
Secretary to Bing Crosby

"Congratulations on your 25th. Mr. Crosby's talent is so great that I only hope we can all look forward to a 'Golden Anniversary.'"

Nancy Briggs
Secretary to Basil Grillo

"Many good wishes on your 25th anniversary. I admire the effort you put into 'Bingang' and always look forward to the latest edition."

Vera Smith
Secretary to Larry Crosby

"Congratulations on your 25th! I've been a fan of Mr. Crosby's that long, too, but have only been his accountant for twelve of them - which is the nicest job there is - next to counting the gold at Fort Knox."

Mozelle Seger
Accountant

"Best wishes to 'Club Crosby' on your 25th anniversary. It's always a pleasure to see and meet your friendly members when they visit Bing's office."

Magee
Receptionist

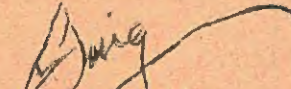
"Congratulations on your 25th. Mr. Crosby keeps singing better and better, so I know this is only the beginning."

Marcia Hackert
Secretary to Simon Rady

BING SAYS.....Cont'd.

So we all are in the act!

Best wishes,


Bing Crosby

BC:vs

NEW SNAPS FOR SALE

10¢ Each

I now have available snaps enclosed in each journal from March, 1944 up to December, 1960

I also have available now, a snap from each one of Bing's movies, from, "King of Jazz" in 1930, right up to today's, "High Time". (Anyone wishing any of these please let me know, and I'll send a list of each.)

234. Bing alone sitting in a chair

237. Bing alone in the 1930's

248. Bing, with Mom and Pop, Larry and Ted and sister, Bing's special degree from Gonzaga in October, 1937

249. Bing alone at Elko in 1948

250. Bing alone at Elko in 1948

251. Bing on set of, "Rhythm on the Range" - 1936

252. Bing and Robert Wagner, set of, "Say One for Me"

253. Bing and Cantinflas on the set of, "Pepe"

254. Bing and Freeman Godsen of "Amos and Andy" in 1930's

255. Bing and Rosemary Clooney

323. Bing at his golf tournament

324. Bing with Bob Rosburg golf tournament winner, 1961

325. Bing alone at the San Francisco Golf Tournament

327. Bing with Mary Frances and Harry Jr.

BIRTHDAY LIST

May 6 - Mary Maloney

May 8 - Christina Gibb - 175 Broadway, Newark 4, New Jersey
c/o Loretto Hall

June 15 - Rena Albanesi

June 30 - Florence Van Brock - 1823 Victor Street, St. Louis 4, Missouri

July 1 - Rosalee Coy - 714 Hill Avenue, South San Francisco, Calif.

July 17 - Jean-Paul Frereault, 1541 2 e Martin, P.Q., Montreal, Canada

Aug. 8 - Priscilla Koernig

July 8 - Mrs. Thelma Hardie

May 2 - Bing

Aug 8 - Harry Jr.

(9028 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles 46, California)

If you would like your name on our birthday list, please write and let me know when it is.



Bing in 1931
Radio Debut

Variety - November, 1931

Certified Cremo Cigar Company must have stepped high to corral Bing Crosby, the rage of the radio hour, for their WABC broadcast. But, judging by his work, he is worth it. This must be a tough week for him, however, for he is doing four shows a day at the Paramount Theatre which, on top of his radio work in the evening, puts a heavy strain on his voice. Monday night, when caught, he showed no effects of hard usage, however, his tones being clear and vibrant as ever. On the air Monday night he used, "Now That You're Gone", "Then She's Mine" and Goodnight Sweetheart". All these he threw off in the manner that has brought him forward so fast in the favor of the public. It is highly individual, belongs to him alone and he need stand in no fear of competition, because, while he may have imitators, there will be only one Bing Crosby.

(Bing started on radio, September 2, 1931 on a sustaining show for \$600, six nights a week, \$600 a week. After only four weeks on sustaining programs Bing landed a sponsor, Cremo Cigar. On November 2, 1931, Bing went on the air for Cremo with a show to be aired twice nightly-at seven-fifteen, P.M. Eastern Standard Time for Eastern stations, and at eleven P.M. for Western stations. It came time for Bing to have a theme song. Song after song was tried in a serious search for a suitable theme song. Finally the selection was narrowed down to two: "Love Came Into My Heart" and "When the Gold of the Day Meets the Blue of the Night". These two songs were used on alternate nights for several weeks and then the latter won out, though the title was transposed to the now well-known, "When the Blue of the Night Meets the Gold of the Day". It was a theme song that stuck with Bing from then on.

Bing Crosby was launched on Broadway with blitzkrieg tactics, and the showmen of the greatest entertainment strip in the world snatched quickly at the tailboard of his wagon en route to the stars. Paramount Theatre built a unit around him as a background for singing of "Just One More Chance" and "I Surrender Dear". And while he was appearing on the stage of the Paramount, his first Mack Sennett short, "I Surrender Dear" was showing on the screens of the Rialto and Rivoli Theatres on Broadway.

The following review appeared in the November 30, 1931 issue of Variety.

Bing Crosby is the leader among the current flock of popular song baritones on the air. And the first to be recognized as possessing sufficient importance to rate stage headlining. Crosby, in about two months on the New York air for CBS, has met with some popularity. His disc rep preceded him East. He might mean enough now to bring some money into Paramount, though not enough to make the entertainment angle secondary.

"That Crosby still entertains more than he draws keep him out of the freak headliner class. He's as pleasant to hear on the stage as on the radio, for at the large Paramount, they rigged up a stageful of microphones for him.

"Crosby isn't a novice on the stage, another advantage for him over the average radio name crashing the theatre. He saw an audience before he saw the inside of a radio studio, so he must know audiences. When with Whiteman's Rhythm Boys, he struck a battered cymbal for emphasis with a drumstick and made a noise like a goose.

"Crosby is also at home in a tux and fronts oaky. At the Paramount in a presentation constructed around him, he sings five numbers. He didn't register in the wallop way with this picture house audience, but they liked him enough to qualify the booking."

(Bing was at the Paramount for 29 consecutive weeks, his song routine was changed weekly. One week he came out astride a piano a la Helen Morgan. The next week he was sent out over the audience singing from a travelling crane. When it came time to swing the crane back on the stage, something went wrong mechanically and Bing was left high and dry over the audience. He had to do about 20 songs before he could be swung back meantime yelling between numbers, "Hey, Weitman, get me down.")

(Bing received \$2,500 a week for the first ten weeks, and it was upped to \$4,000, for the rest of the run.)

The second short featuring Bing, "Just One More Chance", was launched by Mack Sennett and drew the following praise from Variety, "Crosby displays a capital comedy sense, plays with assurance and certainty. Subject is worth minor featuring in view of air popularity. Short a solid click with the premiere crowd."

Bing received \$750 for each Mack Sennett short, there were six of them, "I Surrender Dear", "Just One More Chance", "Dream House", "Sing, Bing, Sing", "Billboard Girl", "Where the Blue of the Night."

In 1932, Bing signed with Paramount Studios, signing a contract to appear in five feature pictures during the next three years for a total consideration of \$300,000. Said Bing at the time, "I don't want to play the great lover or make the mistake of trying to carry the whole thing myself," he said. "If this deal goes through, I'm to have good stories and be surrounded by a first class cast with big names. I'll be given a chance to play parts that suit my personality."



Lennie Hayton "Bing" Eddie Lang
Big Broadcast of 1932
Bing's First Starring Movie

"The Big Broadcast of 1932", had its opening at the New York Paramount Theatre on October 14, 1932.

The picture was well received for what it was, a melange of radio acts revolving around the story of the misadventures of a radio crooner, Bing Crosby. Bing's wisdom in refusing to allow himself to be billed as the star of the picture now paid off because he was not carrying, the whole load of the show on his shoulders and the reviewers' comments gave him more credit than if he had accepted top booking. They were unanimous in concluding that he had a flair for comedy, that his acting was good and his singing excellent. The New York American reviewer, however, went all out with a write-up which said, "Bing Crosby is the star, make no mistake about it. The Blue of the Night boy is a picture personality, as he has demonstrated in his two-reelers. He has a camera face and a camera presence. Always at ease, he troupes like a veteran. And, of course, you can guess what happens when he sings. That "Please" number had 'em humming on the way out." The New York Daily Mirror said, "Crosby hints at great possibilities as a film player. No radio star ever has photographed better, or faced the cameras with greater poise and assurance than the pleasing Bing".

(I thought you'd enjoy reading a bit about the days Bing really started to hit the top. The rest of this story is all history to you all, but, thought the beginning would interest you. You will read more interesting things about Bing's wonderful career. I obtained this information from my many books written on Bing. Most of it came from the book written by Bing's brother Ted, called, "The Story of Bing Crosby" written in 1936.

Ruth C. Ness
2368 S.W. 32nd. Street
Miami 34, Florida

This article is being repeated with the permission of Ruth Ness, president of the Club Crosby from 1947-1951. It appeared first in the 12th. anniversary issue of BINGANG - July, 1948, and it was again used in the 20th. anniversary issue - May, 1956. It tells the history of the Club Crosby from its beginning up to 1948.

"This being our 12th Anniversary, I will attempt to give you a brief history of the Club Crosby and BINGANG.

Unfortunately, I was not a member of the club at its beginning and have been unable to find any of our present members who were with the club at that memorable day so many years ago. Consequently its beginning is lost back in the middle 1930's somewhere. I've been able to trace it back as far back as 1936; hence our 12th Anniversary!

In those days Kay Browning was Presy and Syd Gath (killed in World War II) was just taking over as Editor. That Syd was some editor - I have never seen another like him. Such wit as that fellow possessed! Glancing over some of the 1939 issues of BINGANG, I notice such names as Isabel Lee, Philomena Vendetti, Adela Dusek, Marion Hesse, Pat Black and Evelyn Tedrahn - all gals who are still with us and going strong. There's a fine Editorial written by the one, and only Bing called, "Keeping Your Feet On the Ground."

Three of the 1939 issues contained fancy printed covers. In Bing's letter he explains that the cover was done by an inmate of the penitentiary. He was due for parole and the cover was helping him find a job. About this time Fan Clubs were given a lot of unpleasant publicity by the various magazines so the club's secretary at that time, Alison Bruce, wrote a letter to Bing on behalf of the club. In it she explained how the club worked hard on BINGANG, went to see his movies, bought his records, wrote letters etc., and in general impressed upon him that the Club Crosby was one of the few clubs on the level and "What is your honest opinion of the benefits and drawbacks of a fan-club?" Bing answered through BINGANG with a sincere and friendly long letter. In part it read "...The 'Bingang' bunch stands out to me, both for excellence of the club paper and the sincerity of the members. Many times I am sorry we don't have a more personal contact. You know me better than I know you. I must keep busy with so many interests, when I would prefer more time with my friends. Loyal fans are more important to me than the student rooting section is to the school team. When their encouragement stops, I'll know it's time to retire in favor of new talent." Continuing on with the highlights of the 1939 issues, there really was a "Scoop" - an interview with the late Amelia Earhart. It was just before she took off on her latest and last - flight.

The 1940 issues came through with splendid mimeographing and even right margins but with printing still only on one side. One article in particular, "I Knew The Family When" by Mrs. Geo. Munro, was very good. Member Mrs. Munro lived next door to the Crosbys when Bing was attending school. It was most interesting. The Anniversary Issue this year brought a "thank you" from Bing for the Album of Member's snapshots which we sent to him for Christmas. A branch was opened in Jacksonville, Florida, with Willowdean Wheeler at the head of it.

Then there's the 5th Anniversary issue in 1941. I see names of Dorothy Schmitt, Ruth McEwan (now Ruth West), Lawrence Grennan, Jean Egan, Betty Mulkeen, Mary Smith, Sally Gray, Ann Wentzell, Virginia Egan, Bernadine Spravka, Mary Louise Walker (now Sahlie) and Doris Carolina (now Daly) mentioned throughout who are still familiar members in the club. A nice snap of Bing and Dixie the boys and an ac-

LOOKING BACK.....Cont'd.

companying article entitled "Meeting Bing and Dixie Lee Crosby" by Lawrence Grennan are highlights in the journal. Going through 1941 we find Syd Gath carrying on his usual flare for humor altho due to the fact that he was now in the Canadian Army, he had to give up his Editorial duties and Kay took over - Syd still sent in articles regularly. A letter from Larry Crosby in another 1941 issue informs us that Bing is in Buenos Aires - also that "Birth of the Blues" is the new pic. With this issued they started to print on both sides of the the paper and it turned out splendidly. There are 4 or 5 very clever poems in this issue. Attractive horse bookends were sent to Bing for Christmas.

1942 - Clever scrapbook article by Lawrence Grennan called, "Speaking for Myself" which followed through his scrapbooks appeared in several "Bingangs" through the year. The Club Crosby almost lost its balance the end of 1942 and the beginning of 1943 when Kay Browning had to give it up due to her important job. After many months of reorganization Willowdean Wheeler took over and a swell issue came out the Summer of 1943. Nice snap of Bing and Bob Hope. Phil Vendetti was editor of the journals. Yours Truly was secretary. A "Service Honor Roll" page was added...featuring a member in service with each issue. The Christmas issue was very good with many drawings and really good articles. I noticed the addition of such regular members as Catherine Corwin, Jeanelle James, Rita Gallagher, Virginia Kuhit.

1944 brought a tremendous increase in membership and continually nice journals. Our British branch started this year. Virginia Keagan has some of her usual good articles in as I thumb through these issues. A charming snap of Willowdean in one issue - I begin to notice the sketches by Walter Goldby now and then and of course Ruth West has long since been doing clever covers for the journal. There was a nice article about brother Bob Crosby by the prexy of his fan club, Isabel Lee. A soldier on Saipan wrote his impression of Bing-typical of so many serviceman's opinions and impressions.

The first issue of 1945 of course carried praises for Bing's winning of the Academy Award in March of that year for his splendid performance in "Going My Way" in 1944. How we fairly bursted with pride that year! One issue had a splendid article by British Representative Bob Heagren, telling how he met Bing when Mr. C was in England. I notice familiar names again - Elsie Schweer, Guen Griffith, Madeline Kerns, Dorothy Atwood, Rita Barisic, and Roslyn Weiner. 1945 was the year I went to Hollywood and the trip was written up in the journal - what memories that brings back. Gordon Atkinson appears on the the scene with an article about his meeting with Bing when he was on leave from the Canadian Army in Hollywood. Funny thing here - Gord happened to be at the same golf match that I attended in Hollywood (Bing playing of course!), but we didn't even know of each other at the time. Arn't Fan Clubs wonderful though??

1946 found Willowdean giving up the club to Philomena Vendetti. A nice letter from Bing thanking the members for the birthday gifts sent to him - a pen and pencil set and a leather briefcase. Lois Hilton's article, "Experience of a Lifetime" was very different and clever. I was Vice-President now and enjoyed doing "Shall We Get Acquainted?" column. The blue print of the journal looked very nice in the Summer issue I thought. Our Canadian branch was organized and Gordon began to do miracles with the thing. We joined the Modern Screen Fan Club Association this year. A couple of the journals were done in two colors which are pretty but proved to be a little too much trouble. Bing thanked us for the rosaries the members sent to the children in Greece and also our Sister Kenny donation. "Club Crosby

LOOKING BACK.....Cont'd.

"Minutes" was introduced this year. A questionnaire from Dixie Crosby proved to be the most popular article with the members. Our Syd Gath Memorial was started in the form of a raffle - the money sent to a Veteran's Hospital.

Bringing you in the homestretch now, 1947 I took over the club. We had so many nice compliments on the issues. Our articles and drawings began to win points in MSFCA. We introduced a Record Page, Peek At the Members, Introducing; and in the issues to follow a Broadway column, Chicago column and Crosbyana. Too, we added something that "Bingang" had never had before - a table of contents.

TWENTY-FIVE PROUD YEARS

The years now number twenty-five,
Since first our Club was formed.
For Bing, who many songs has sung,
And many hearts has warmed.

Whose long career's been followed with,
And interest sharp and keen.
Who has, in many lives, I'm sure,
An inspiration been.

The Crosby charm and magic voice,
Have mellowed with the years.
He's still our, "Mr. Music",
And we greet him now, with cheers!

To us, his fans, he'll always be,
Our "super-favourite" man.
This brightest-shining member,
Of the famous Crosby clan.

For twenty-five proud years we've known,
Bing - acting, singing, living.
To us, his name means all that's fine,
He's always pleasure - giving.

So on your Anniversary, Bing,
A toast we'll drink 'tis true.
We'll stand and raise our glasses,
Mr. Crosby, here's to you!

Doris Oke
Broughton Nele Road
Berry 6 C, N.S.W.,
Australia

Today Mitch Miller is firmly identified as the grand old man of the "Sing Along With..." school, but Dave Kapp believes he had the idea first, with no less a personality than Bing Crosby as the choir master.

Bing laughed at the idea, Kapp told me, and I couldn't convince him to try it. Now, it's probably one of the biggest things in the record business. Mitch Miller has a regular TV series based on it, and among the people who've capitulated and put out a Sing Along album is none other than Bing Crosby.

January 26, 1961

Twenty-five years is a long time for a fan club to be in existence. Many of you may not realize this, but it is true. There are only two other clubs in the fan club world older than Club Crosby--one is twenty-six years old and the other twenty-eight. Only one is for one honorary, the other is an all star club.

I joined Club Crosby in 1944, which means I've been a member for 17 years, and I've enjoyed every year. When the Club celebrated its 20th Anniversary, Rena asked me to write a history of the Club and Bingang. It was most interesting doing that article, and brought back many memories of my pleasant association with the Club and Bing. Recently Rena asked if I would bring the history up to date for our 25th Anniversary, so once again I'll ask you to go down Club Crosby's Memory Lane with me. I'm sure you'll enjoy the trip.

The first copy of BINGANG I received was the May, 1944 issue. Willowdean Wheeler and Philomena Vendetti were at the helm of the club then as President and Editor. Ruth McEwan as Secretary to the Editor and Ruth West as Secretary to the President, both did a great deal of work on the journal.

One of the outstanding articles in this journal was an excerpt from the book "Retreat Hell", which was about Bataan, and this particular item was told by a Marine back from Bataan. Someone managed to get hold of a battery radio and 25 or 30 men were gathered around for it was reported that the "Groaner" was going to sing a special program for them. Bing sang a couple of numbers and he was roundly applauded, both by the audience in the studio back in the States and from the small group of men gathered around the lantern light in the jungles. He was a great favorite with all the men. The Marine wrote that in spite of half-rations, mosquitos, heat, snipers, bere-beri and everything else, hearing him made them feel gay. Through it all they smiled and he helped them forget.

The biggest news about Bing in this issue was the fact that, "Going My Way" was due to have its' world premiere, and was already being hailed as a great motion picture, and that Bing would probably win an Oscar.

Significant of the war years, we had a service honor roll, and each issue had a salute to one of our members in the armed services.

The September, 1944 journal is outstanding for the raves and reviews of "Going My Way". Willowdean had an open letter to Bing telling him how proud we were of him, and how happy she was to be associated with the club. There were reviews from a number of newspapers praising "Going My Way", and various members wrote about seeing and enjoying the picture.

It is interesting to note that in these issues there were no Australian or Canadian Chapters; very few English members, and only four representatives.

Our December, 1944 issue welcomed Bing back to the USA, after an extensive USO tour, in which he brought entertainment and a little bit of home to our boys in service all over the world. In this journal, too Ruth McEwan wrote about the thrill of seeing Bing playing golf in a War Bond Match in Los Angeles, and getting his autograph.

Ruth wrote another article for the March, 1945 issue about her trip to California and the wonderful experience of attending two Kraft Music Hall Broadcasts. It was a dream she had had for years--seeing Bing in person. Of course, at this time, everyone was excited about Bing winning the Oscar. Ruth Ness wrote an article entitled "Bing At

the Top", and mentioned all the wonderful awards which had been given him in recent months; The Motion Picture Exhibitor's Poll had selected him as the #1 Box Office Star; he received the Motion Pictures Critics annual award; Photoplay's Gallup Poll, and the Look and Redbook awards. In concluding her article Ruth wrote, "It seems to be an undisputed fact that Mr. C. is at the well-known TOP! So if you'll forgive our pride, Bing we think we have the best club there is for the best entertainer there is--that comes from our hearts. God Bless you."

By the time our September, 1945 BINGANG was out the war had ended, which made us all happy. In her letter in the issue Phil extended our deepest gratitude to the many service men and women of Club Crosby, who had so honorably served our country. In this issue she, also, apologized because the journal was so small, due to a shortage of paper. At this time dues were 50¢. There was also, a letter from our representative in England, who was Bob Heagren. He had had the pleasure of meeting Bing during Bing's visit to London.

In 1946 we all expressed our sympathy on hearing of the death of Dixie's mother, and we find still another Crosbyite taking Horace Greely's advice to go West, for Ruth Ness wrote of her vacation in California, and needless to say the highlight of her trip was attending a Kraft Music Hall broadcast, and seeing Bing.

Gordon Atkinson was first heard from at this time, and he wrote an interesting account of seeing and meeting Bing at Paramount on the set of, "Blue Skies". Bing and Gordon had their picture taken together, and two weeks later the picture arrived at Gordon's home inscribed "To Gordon with every good wish, Bing Crosby". Gordon wrote in his article that of all the stars he had met in Hollywood, Bing was the only one who counted.

Kraft Music Hall was due to go off the air, at least Bing was leaving, and he was only fulfilling his contract by court order. He felt they kept him tied down, as they refused to broadcast, camps, hospitals, or anywhere but Hollywood. We were awaiting the news of a new radio show.

Changes in our staff were announced in the Summer Issue of BINGANG. Philomena became President and Editor; Ruth Ness, Vice-President and Secretary, and Virginia Keegan and Ruth West were Assistant Secretaries. The Canadian Branch was formed under the leadership of Gordon Atkinson. Virginia wrote an article telling how she received tickets from Bing to attend the Jerome Kern Memorial Broadcast in New York City, and was thrilled to meet and talk with him afterwards. There was, also, a letter from Bing thanking us for our birthday gift of a pen and pencil set and a leather briefcase.

Our December issue was dedicated to Syd Gath, former Editor of BINGANG, who was killed in service. The big news in this issue was the announcement of Bing's return on radio Wednesday nights, and as long as this program remained on the air, Wednesday was Bing's Day to all Crosby fans. J. Lawrence Grenan, Assistant Editor had an open letter to Bing. Briefly, it was a complaint about not being able to buy or hear Bing's records. Sounds familiar doesn't it? The issue had an interesting Questionnaire from Dixie.

The year 1947 saw some more changes in our staff. Ruth Ness became President and Editor; Virginia Keegan was Vice-President. Our dues were raised to \$1.00. Guests like Ethel Merman, Maggie O'Brien, Alex Templeton, Bob Hope and Al Jolson had appeared with Bing on the terrific radio programs of that season. Jimmy Fidler conducted a poll to pick the "Most Popular Living Person"--yes, you've guessed it--

Bing won. The Record Page was introduced in the journal, and Gordon Atkinson was made Assistant Editor and Merrie Allison became Secretary. Lois Hilton wrote an article about the first annual convention of fan clubs which she attended as representative of Club Crosby, which was held in Los Angeles. Ruth Ness had an exciting vacation in New York and she told us all about it, and another new feature was added to the journal--the "Meet the Members" column.

In browsing through the 1948 journals, we read that Bing won the Photoplay Gallup Award for the 4th. consecutive year. Helen Schulte wrote about attending a Philco broadcast and seeing Bing on her trip to California. This is the year I took over the "Meet the Members" page, and it was interesting and fun hearing from and writing about the members for the journal. Bing was made Honorary Mayor of Elko, Nevada and there were big doings out that way in honor of the occasion. Our 12th. anniversary was celebrated that year, and the Club Contact System was organized under Virginia Keegan. Bing came East, and many members had a chance to see him in person when they attended Philco broadcasts. Madeline Kerns wrote an article about attending a broadcast.

The biggest thrill of 1948 for Club Crosby and BINGANG was winning the Modern Screen Fan Club Association Trophy. Our Canadian Branch was going great guns at this time, and they had their own radio show. The New York Chapter was having quite a few get-togethers and excursions, and Sylva Kraese wrote an entertaining article about it. I joined the girls on many of these outings and reading Sylva's account brought back many happy memories. This year saw the start of our wonderful Australian Branch, under the leadership of Barbara Doggett. Believe me, these members from "Down Under" are among Bing's most staunch and loyal supporters.

In 1949 Jean Rainey and Daphne Reed took over the leadership of the English Branch. Fred McBride of Canada went to California met and talked with Bing at Paramount, and wrote an account of it in BINGANG. Bing was made an honorary member of a Canadian Indian Tribe, and given the name of, "Big Chief Thundervoice". A nice article by Irene Ashcroft told all about this, and also told of Bing's visit to the City Hall where she worked, where he signed the visitors book and was given the key to the city. The lucky members who were home all day were able to enjoy Bing's Minute Maid Orange Juice programs. He was on every day for fifteen minutes.

In one of the journals Virginia Keegan wrote about the doings of the New York Chapter, and in particular the birthday party we had for Bing at Nino and Nella's which is his favorite eating place in New York. We had a birthday cake, party hats we sang and our guest of honor was a two dimensional photo of Bing. In 1949 too, Virginia became Editor of the journal. Bing was voted Top Box Office of 1949, and in the December issue Phil wrote a nice article entitled, "Just Reminiscing". An article which had appeared in Cosmopolitan by George Frazer call "The Fall and Decline of Bing Crosby," resulted in that magazine being swamped with letters in protest, and all of the columnists came out in defense of Bing. There was a letter in BINGANG by Helen Chalus, which she had send to Cosmopolitan which expressed all of our feelings about the matter.

The first issue of Bingang in 1950 came out after Bing had been in New York on his way to Europe. The one big thrill for me at that time was when a group of us from the New York Chapter went to the

THROUGH THE YEARS.....Cont'd.

Pennsylvania Station to welcome Bing to New York. He was coming from Front Royal, Virginia, where "Riding High" had been premiered. Virginia had an entertaining article about our meeting Bing, and there were other articles by Virginia, for when Bing came to New York Virginia was lucky to be able to meet and talk with Bing at his hotel, and with several others she attended a couple of broadcasts when Mary Martin and Al Jolson were guests.

The club celebrated its 14th. Anniversary in 1950. The New York Chapter was very active, and articles in the journal told about trips to ball games, Rye Beach, Rockaway and the Cloisters. The news of the death of Bing's father sadden us. Ruth Ness once again told of a wonderful vacation in New York. In one of our journals there were several letters from Bing--one was written abroad the Queen Elizabeth on his return home. There was an interesting article about Bing being adopted into the Western Shoshone Paiute Indian Tribe in Nevada. He was given the name of Sond-Hoo-Vi-A-Gund-----Man of Many Songs.

The year 1951 was Bing's 20th. Anniversary as a star, and it did not go un-noticed by Crosbyites. Virginia was on several programs in honor of this occasion--Luncheon's At Sardi's and Hits & Misses. There was a special two hour program from the lobby of the Paramount Theatre. Virginia and several other members were in the lobby urging people to send greeting cards to Bing. The Greeting Card Campaign was a huge success, and many people were glad of the chance to give Bing this recognition. Virginia told about her experiences in BINGANG. There was, also, a special anniversary of BINGANG that was printed and put out with the cooperation of Paramount Studios.

In our regular spring issue of BINGANG there were many articles and tributes in honor of Bing by members and celebrities. In 1951, also, Bing was voted top male star for the 7th. year, top-ranking male vocalist, and best master of ceremonies in various polls. We read of all these awards in BINGANG with a great deal of pride.

As I read through the old journals there is so much worth mentioning, articles and poems by Bing like the grand article by Helen Tolton in which she tells about being a Crosby fan since 1930 ever since Bing sang with Gus Arnheim's Band, then in the Grove, as one of the Rhythm Boys, singing on the radio from New York, and finally watching him become a star in the movies. Elsie Schweer wrote about her trip to the West Coast, and attending a recording of Bing's radio program at Palm Springs with Louis Armstrong and Mary Martin as guests. Around this time, too Gary's name started to appear in the journal. He made a record or two with Bing, and had appeared on his program several times.

In 1951 Virginia and Ruth decided to look for someone else to take over the club, but I guess no one came forward, and rather than discontinue Virginia became President and Editor, and she announced it in the first journal of 1952. This was the same year that we were hearing rumors about Bing being on TV. There were two new features in BINGANG--the OPEN FORUM and the BOOST BING CAMPAIGN, which Helen Chalus conducted. I had the OPEN FORUM, which proved to be popular, but eventually had to be discontinued due to lack of material. But in 1952 we also had the sad news of Dixie's death and we joined with others in sending our condolences to the Crosby family.

The subject of TV kept coming up a great deal of 1953. We were all anxious for Bing to take the plunge. In our first journal in 1953 English members had articles about seeing Bing in person when he had been to England. Angie Gurlitt of Austria traveled to Paris to meet

THROUGH THE YEARS.....Cont'd.

Bing when he was there to make "Little Boy Lost", and told us about her exciting experience. There were good reviews of Bing's new radio show, also. As members of Club Crosby we received advance copies of the first Saturday Evening Post which carried the story by Bing and Pete Martin--"Call Me Lucky". Rena Albanesi became Vice-President in 1953, and Peggy Flaga told about appearing on Johnny Elwood's Disc-Jockey program to get members to start a branch of Club Crosby. It was in 1953 that Bing and Lindsay took a trip to Europe, and Virginia met Bing in New York. Later she and some of the other members saw them off on the Queen Elizabeth.

We ended 1953 by hearing that ever present rumors about Bing's retirement weren't true. Articles appeared in the journal about his recent trip to Europe by members and excerpts from some of the columnists. "Call Me Lucky" was getting rave notices and was on the best seller lists.

TV finally arrived in Crosbyland in 1954. Bing made his first appearance on TV and although the critics didn't receive him too well, we were satisfied that at least it was a start. Peggy Flaga had come to New York on her vacation and we read about it in the journal. Later Peggy became President and Editor, and put her first journal in May, 1954. In that journal Barbara Waggener had an interesting article entitled "My Favorite Singer". The topic for the OPEN FORUM was "Your Favorite Scene From a Crosby Movie". Margaret O'Hara picked a scene from "Going My Way"; Jan Cruciani picked one from "Road to Bali". Helen Chalus's campaign was really going to town. Rena Albanesi took over the RECORD PAGE.

In 1954 Bing came back on radio for 15 minutes every night Monday to Friday. Ron Murphy became Canadian Branch Leader. In a later issue the OPEN FORUM topics continued and Rita Gervais selected the scene from "Little Boy Lost" when Bing finally discovers that the child is really his. Shirley Naylor had an oldie as her favorite--the scene in "East Side of Heaven" when Bing sang, "Happy Birthday". Mary Light picked an oldie too--the scene from "Pennies From Heaven" when Bing sang the title song and pennies fell into his umbrella turned "upside down".

Our dues were raised to \$1.25 in January, 1955. Bing's wonderful musical biography album came out and was reviewed and praised in the journal. Lillian Potter became co-leader of the Canadian Branch. Ann Heidelberger wrote about her trip to Europe. In a later issue Peggy told about taking over for Johnny Elwood as mistress of ceremonies on his CROSBY CAVALCADE program. "Country Girl" took the country by storm, and Bing was a candidate for the "Oscar". We all rooted and hoped. He won the LOOK magazine award and appeared on Red Skelton's program to receive it. I wrote an article about it, Bing received many other awards for his performance in that picture, and although he didn't receive the Oscar, his appearance on the program with Bob Hope was the highlight of the evening.

In September, 1955 Peggy Flaga issued her last journal and announced that since she was getting married she was turning the club over to Joan Interrant. Rena wrote about attending the International Fan Club Convention in New York as representative and Vice-President of Club Crosby. Betty Mosier had a nice article entitled "Bing Crosby Can Do Anything".

Joan's first journal was January, 1956, and was put out with a great deal of help from Rena. Helen's campaign was still going and

THROUGH THE YEARS.....Cont'd.

she urged us to write. For quite a while Gary had been making a name for himself, and it was decided to give him a page in the journal called, "Gary's Corner". The decision was left up to the members.

In May, of 1956 Club Crosby celebrated its 20th. Anniversary, as well as Bing's 25th. Anniversary in show business. The May issue contained 3 letters from Bing--one congratulating the club, and the others telling of his activities and future plans. In one of his letters he mentioned "High Society", which he said would be his next movie. At the time we were viewing and enjoying "Anything Goes". There were many interesting articles about the Club and Bing in this journal, and there were letters of congratulations from some celebrities in honor of Club Crosby's birthday.

BINGING, October 1956 contained some nice snaps of Bing, plus a nice letter from him. There was, also, an interesting interview with Bing by Marie Torre, TV and Radio columnist. During this time American Home had carried a big spread of pictures of Bing's home and Colliers had published an interesting article about Bing and Frank Sinatra. Gary was in the Army and so were the twins. By this time we were all enjoying "High Society" and "True Love" was breaking record sales. Pat Sullivan, an ardent Crosbyite, took over the Pen Pal Page.

Exciting things happened in 1957, especially for Rena and I. Joan Interrant stepped down as prexy of Club Crosby and Rena became our new prexy. She asked me to be Vice-President. I accepted and was honored she had asked me. All this was announced in the February journal. "True Love" sold a million copies and it was Bing's 20th. gold record. There was an article about the International Fan Club League Convention by Rena and I, which both of us had attended. Priscilla Koernig and Pat Sullivan wrote an interesting article about their trip to California.

June, 1957 was the 21st. Anniversary of Club Crosby. There was a snap of Bing accepting his 20th. gold record for "True Love". We were looking forward to Bing's latest movie "Man on Fire", in which we were told the world-shaking news that he would not sing a note. The twins were out of the Army, Lindsay was now in and Gary was still in--stationed in Germany. I started my column "Meet the Members" again.

BINGING for October 1957 contained the news that Bing would make a TV appearance with Frank Sinatra. Among other interesting articles in this journal was another one by Jo Clancy of her trip around the world.

By the time our February, 1958 journal was issued Bing and Kathryn were married and we were all very happy for Bing. Rena had asked me to write an article about them, which appeared in the journal. There was, also, a biography of Mrs. Crosby and a nice snap. The Bing Crosby Memorial Library had been dedicated at Gonzaga University and Club Crosby members had donated a plaque. This issue contained some reviews of the Edsel Show which Bing, Frank Sinatra, Rosemary Clooney and Lindsay had appeared in it. It had been a hit. Priscilla Koernig became our West Coast Representative.

By the time the June, 1958 journal was issued, we had the happy news that Kathryn was expecting a baby. In the April 5th. issue of the Saturday Evening Post, Pete Martin had an article entitled, "I Call on Bing Crosby's Bride". Gary had started work on his first movie "Hardi Gras" and Lindsay had signed a record contract with R.C.A. Patricia McHale had a very nice article in this journal entitled, "An Open Letter to Kathy Grant." It had, also been published in her hometown newspaper. The journal had an article about the Crosby Library

THROUGH THE YEARS.....Cont'd.

at Gonzaga University and a letter from Rev. Clifford Carroll, S.J. acknowledging our plaque. Priscilla Koernig had attended the Pebble Beach Golf Tournament, met Bing and told us all about it in a very enjoyable article.

August 8, 1958 was a red letter day for the Crosbys and our October 1958 journal celebrated the arrival of Bing and Kathryn's son--Harry Jr. Both Patricia McHale and myself had articles about the new baby. The next interesting news item was the fact that Bing had signed a 5 year contract for radio and TV with A.B.C. We had made a donation to the St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica for Bing's birthday and there was a letter from Bing thanking us and also one from the hospital.

Our June 1959 journal celebrated our 23rd. Anniversary. Bing's second TV show for A.B.C. had gone over with a bang as had the first one and there were reviews of this show in the journal, all raves I might add. The twins appeared on this second show as did a favorite of mine--James Garner. This journal, also had an article about Bing's new movie "Say One For Me". We had another interesting article from Jo Clancy, too.

There were three letters from the Crosbys in our October 1959 BINGANG--Bing, Kathryn and Larry. Kathryn was made Honorary of the club and Tex (Harry, Jr.) was made club cub. There were four snaps. For the first time since I started my "Meet the Members" column, I had no material for it. However, I told about my trip to Hawaii and also Ruth Ness's visit to New York. Also mentioned Ann Heidelberger's wedding, which I was planning to attend. Priscilla Koernig wrote her column during her vacation in Northern California. She took a side trip to see Bing's Rising River Ranch. There were several interesting articles in this journal which I want to mention--one was entitled, "Bing Has Won the World", and also one by Les Gaylor. Elsie Schweer wrote about the Crosby Boys' appearance at the Chez Paree in Chicago, which she attended.

Between our October 1959 journal and February 1960 issue, Kathryn gave birth to a girl, and at last Bing had a daughter. They named her Mary Frances. There was a note acknowledging the telegram of congratulations Rena had sent in the club's name. There was a snap of Bing, Kathryn and Mary Frances leaving the hospital and I had an article entitled, "It's A Girl". Rena was looking forward to her trip to California. We were happy about the reunion of Bing and the boys and Rena mentioned this in her letter. Bing's first TV show of the season was loudly applauded by everyone and there were some reviews in the journal. Sinatra had been his guest, as well as Peggy Lee and Louis Armstrong. His (Bing's) guest appearance with Sinatra was also hailed by everyone. Dean Martin and Mitzi Gaynor appeared on this show. Jo told us about her stay in New York City.

In June 1960, Rena wrote an interesting article about her trip to California, her visit to the Crosby offices, and her meeting with Bing at the Golf Tournament. Bing's TV show with Perry Como as guest was rated as tops and there were some reviews in this journal. The same nice things were said when Bing reciprocated Perry's visit.

By the time the December 1960 journal was issued "High Time" had been released and we all enjoyed it, as did the critics. The Pittsburgh Pirates won the World Series and Bing elated. There was an interesting reprint of an article by Jimmy Cannon, sportswriter about Bing, the Pirates. The article, "The First Time I Sang Silent Night" by Bing was very good. Bing and Kathryn had gone on a trip to Europe

THROUGH THE YEARS.....Cont'd.

and there was an excellent article about Bing's recording session in Britian by Derek Johnson.

That just about brings us up to the present day. But I would like to make a few comments before I sign off. Neither time nor space permit me to list all the contributors to all these journals, but there are a few people who over the last few years have been faithful contributors to BINGANG--Thelma Hardie, our Southern Cross Branch Representative, Pat Sullivan, our Pen Pal Editor and Priscilla Koernig, our West Coast Representative. Ann (Heidelberger) Pavick had a column for a while, but had to drop it because of lack of co-operation. There have been others who have contributed from time to time, but as I said I can't list them all. The past Presidents of Club Crosby should also be mentioned for their part in helping the club stay in existence for 25 years. Last but far from least our sincere thanks to Rena Albanesi, who has done an excellent job as president and editor.

Without our wonderful Honorary there would be no Club Crosby, and our best wishes to you, Bing. Now on to the next 25 years!

FROM CHIRLEY MAYLOR

Rena has asked me to write an article for our 25th. anniversary, so here goes.

I joined Club Crosby in 1949, Ruth Ness was the President followed by Virginia Keegan, 1952-54, Peggy Plaga, 1954-56, Joan Interrant, 1956-57, and Rena 1957. Our Australian President was Barbara Doggett (now Mrs. Woodfine), 1949-1956, then Mrs. Thelma Hardie of New Zealand in 1957.

We are called, "The Southern Cross Branch" and have a beautiful badge about the size of a 2/- piece blue background with gold letters, Club Crosby S.C.B. and the four stars which go to make up the Southern Cross. I have been a Crosby fan since 1942, when I saw, "East Side of Heaven". The last film was, "High Time" which was super. My collection of pictures 256, start in 1932 to 1960 which includes the boys when small, also Kathryn and children. My favourite is one of Bing when 5 years old with baseball bat. In 1950 I started collecting discs in earnest and now have 38 78's 8/10" LPS, 15/45LPS, 9/12"LPS of Bing. Now for Linny and Gary, Linny 1/78 and 2 45's, Gary 5/78's, 3/45's, (I had to get my penfriend in England to send me, "This Little Girl of Mine") and 1 12" which Priscilla Koernig sent me, "Gary Crosby Belts the Blues".

I have Jeanelle James to thank for helping me in the early part of my Crosbyana, she very kindly sent me newspaper cuttings (I have large exercise books full) and later I purchased real pics from her also. Priscilla Koernig of San Francisco and Rena in later years. And of course, I receive an 8x10 each year from Bing. In 1946 I had my biggest thrill when I went to the Sydney Stadium and saw Gary, he was really great (I had an article in Bingang, November, 1956 about him.) Now it is rumoured that Bing and Kathryn are to come to New Zealand this year for a fishing trip, and may call in on us so do hope I am lucky enough to catch a glimpse, even if I have to take time off from work. Before I close I'd like to say how sad I was about the death of Barry Fitzgerald who will ever forget his portrayal of Father Fitzgibbons in, "Going My Way", he will be greatly missed.

If anyone would like to drop me a line I'll do my best to answer My hobbies are collecting real pics of Bing and family and discs of Bing and boys also stamps and would be grateful for any pics news-

FROM JIMMY WAYLOR.....Cont'd.

papers or others. Any information on Roddy McDowall and Jose Iturbi,
will be appreciated. Cherrio

(8 Buna Street, Orange, N.S.W. Australia)

DEAR CROSBY MEMBERS, Pearl Elliott

Lakefield, Ontario, Canada

"Congratulations from Canada" on the 25th. Anniversary of Bingang,
and may we enjoy many more wonderful journals with Rena as our Presi-
dent and Bing as our Honorary President.

I have been a member of the club 15 years and made many sincere
friends. Have all the snaps and journals up to date and prize them
very much. Bing will never realize the pleasure he has given people
all over the world,, with his music and talent.

March 26, 1960 I went with 39 ladies on a bus tour to California,
by way of Indiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico. We
stopped at the Painted Desert, Petrified Forest and spent two days at
the "Bright Angel Lodge" at the Grand Canyon, which is breath taking
in the sunlight.

April 1st, we saw the Hoover Dam, then on to Las Vegas. We went
to a night club at the Stardust and several other places. It was all
very exciting and lots of fun.

April 3rd, my Birthday, we arrived in Hollywood about 4:00 p.m.
Several of us took a tour of Beverly Hills and saw many of the stars
homes. The flowers were beautiful and the perfume filled the air.
Was so happy to see the entrance to Bing's Holmby Hills home. We saw
so many lovely places the time passed too quickly.

Monday we visited two TV shows, "Queen for a Day", and "Truth or
Consequences". The evening we spent outside the Pantages Theatre,
watching the stars arrive in their cars for the Academy Awards. I
recognized dozens, and cheers were loud and long for many of them.

Later we sat on the bleachers and watched them come from the
theatre. It was a dazzling sight to see their beautiful gowns and
sparkling jewelry. A night never to be forgotten.

Next day we drove to San Diego. It was interesting to see Del
Mar and so many wonderful sights and an old Lighthouse near Mexico.
Returned to Hollywood about 10:00 p.m., and met some of my former
guests from Pittsburgh, Mr. & Mrs. Ronsec, whom I was happy to see.
Saw Grauman's Chinese Theatre and the cement square with, "The Blue
of the Night" and Bing's foot prints.

Visited Forest Lawn Cemetery, Disneyland, and Knotts Berry Farm.
Then went to San Francisco for 3 days. Talked with Priscilla Koernig
on the phone which was a pleasure. Went to church, saw Muir Woods (by
crossing the Golden Gate Bridge) Japanese Tea Garden and Fisherman's
Wharf. Saw Margaret O'Brien at a charity show.

Passed through, and had lunch at Squaw Valley on way to Reno,
also Elko next day. There is a large E on a mountain side close by.
A waitress told me Bing's former ranch was several miles from the town.

We entered the state of Utah at 5:00 p.m., and saw the level acres
of Salt Beds and snow capped mountains near Salt Lake City. Next day,
we visited the Mormon Tabernacle which has the largest domed roof in
the world, and heard the organ recital. Then on to Cheyenne, Omaha and
Easter Sunday attended church in Chicago, arriving in Detroit at 10:00
p.m. Talked with Dorothy Dilliard, a member of the International Fan
Club League when it was in operation. April 18, we arrived in Peter-
borough. Had stayed at 14 Hotels covered 6,600 miles and had a truly,
wonderful holiday.

Best wishes to Bing and his charming wife and children and good
luck to the Club for many years to come.



Bing and Barry Fitzgerald in
their greatest roles

RECORDS * NEW ONES

JOIN BING AND SING ALONG * 101 GANG SONGS

Bing Crosby and his friends - "It has taken the Old Master to supply the definitive triumph of this (the Sing Along) genre. He's in his jauntiest form here, leading an unusually robust chorus, back by a vigorously steady rhythm section in performances which imperiously demand participation."

(Warner Bros. "2R 1401)

-High Fidelity Magazine

A Project Records Inc.

Pepe

Col. Pix 507

On this album just sings bits of, "Tennies from Heaven", "Let's Fall In Love", "South of the Border", same as he does in the movie

Face to Face

Decca DED166

Bing sings on this album, "Swinging on a Star", and with Bob Hope, "The Road to Morocco". There is also a short interview with Pete Martin.

Bing Crosby busy taping his March TV spectacular, was having a ball trying to talk to Aldo Monaco, the young Italian tenor he brought over from Rome to introduce on this program. Aldo speaks no English, Bing speaks only a bit of "fractured Italian," but "in music, we communicate" says the Groaner. Aldo was snow-bound in New York on his way here and Bing was as near to being unhinged as he ever gets, worrying whether his guest star would make it on time-he's that sold on the young singer, and his talents. Maurice Chevalier, also starred, was using cue cards for the first time in his long career.

(Silver Screen)

April, 1961

When Rena asked me to write an article for the 25th. anniversary issue of "Binging", I decided it was the appropriate time to tell you how I became a Crosby fan.

How well I remember that day in 1928 when my mother called me to the radio to hear the, "Rhythm Boys" singing, "Side by Side." How deeply impressed she was by their youthful voices.

Later I had the opportunity of hearing Bing's first formal solo effort in a bright little number titled, "Muddy Water" recorded in 1926 with Paul Whiteman's orchestra.

About this time a young songwriter Harry Barris joined the, "Rhythm Boys" and one of his first efforts was, "Mississippi Mud" which became another hit tune for Bing.

Bing's voice made quite an impression on me, and from then on the radio held a very special interest.

Radio in those days was a real novelty to us teenagers, just as television holds a special appeal to the young folks of today.

As time went by, more and more of Bing's recordings were heard over the radio. In 1929 he gave us that lovely solo, "My Kinda Love", then in 1930 this was followed by that ever popular, "I Surrender, Dear" with Gus Arnheim's orchestra. While he was still appearing at the Cocanut Grove, two more songs, "It Must Be True", and "Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams" became hits. The latter being responsible for Bing's access to the radio networks of the world.

The year 1931 was a very successful one for Bing. He recorded such outstanding successes as, "Out of Nowhere", "Just One More Chance", "Sweet and Lovely," "Where the Blue of the Night Meets the Gold of the Day," "Paradise", and not forgetting his favourite song, Hoagy Carmichael's, "Star Dust", which has stood in the forefront of all-time musical standards.

Then the day came when I was to see Bing on the screen for the first time in a "Short" entitled, "Where the Blue of the Night Meets the Gold of the Day." Incidentally this title became his theme song. Maybe some of our older members will remember this picture.

Later came, "The Big Broadcast of 1932" in which Bing played his first featured role. After seeing this picture, I became a Bing fan and have been one ever since.

The rest is history, and today Bing is not only one of the World's greatest artists, but a living legend, a household name wherever people have contact with the gramophone, radio, television, the cinema or the printed word. A voice which has been heard more often and by more people than the voice of any man who has ever lived.

As we enter our club's Silver Jubilee Year and Bing's 30th. year in Show Business, we can look back with pride and satisfaction on the years that have gone, and into the future which we hope will hold much happiness for Bing and his family and members of, "The Club Crosby".

Goodbye for now, with my very best wishes to you all.

Bing-cerely,

Thelma

The whole difference between construction and creation is exactly this: that a thing constructed can only be loved after it is constructed; but a thing created is loved before it exists.

G.K. Chesterton

We left San Francisco on January 21, 1961 around 6:30 A.M., and arrived at Pebble Beach around 9:00. We stopped for breakfast in Monterey. It was the beginning of a beautiful day; and, so nice to feel the warmth of the sun for a change after having such cold weather in San Francisco for the past few weeks.

When we arrived at Pebble Beach, we parked the car in the lot and we were privileged to be chauffeured in a 1961 Oldsmobile courtesy car to the first tee. My girlfriend Carolyn and her friend Trudy were with Rosalee Coy (member of "Bingang" from South San Francisco) and me.

We walked up to Bing's home and found it was up for sale. That scares me. I'm hoping he won't take the tournament away from Pebble Beach!

We saw Tennessee Ernie Ford, James Garner, Gordon MacRae, Guy Madison and a few other celebrities on Saturday.

We left the tournament to verify our reservations at the San Carlos Hotel in Monterey. Then we ate in Carmel and walked around town.

Trudy is Catholic, so we found that the Monterey Church had Mass at 6:30 A.M., and the Carmel Mission's first Mass wasn't until 7:00. We wanted to eat breakfast after and get to the tournament early. So, we decided to go to the church in Monterey,--the earlier Mass. I read in the paper afterwards that Bing and Kathryn were at the 8:00 Mass at the Carmel Mission!

As soon as we arrived at the tournament, Rosalee and I went directly to the 18th. hole as that's where I saw Bing rehearse the last two years around 10:00 A.M. or so. However, this year he was too clever for me! After waiting until noon and STILL NO BING, we found out he wouldn't be there until about 2:25, five minutes before the telecast.

It was about 2:15 in the afternoon and it still puzzles me--all of a sudden BING WAS THERE inside the roped off place at the 18th. hole. How he arrived, or mainly how I missed his arrival, I'll never know. It still puzzles me! I did keep my movie camera going continuously and did get some pictures. He was wearing a tan corduroy jacket and dark grey trousers and had a black and white checked golf cap. And, he was smoking his pipe. When the tournament was over, he walked out amongst the crowd and went to his car, which was parked near the 18th. green and drove off towards home.

I was planning to ask him to pose for a picture with me for the journal, but didn't get opportunity this year because I couldn't catch him when he wasn't busy. I was disappointed about this at first, but I am thankful I've got movies of him greeting me two years ago at the 1959 tournament. Also, there will be other years and I am hoping for this opportunity.

On Sunday, January 15, 1961, we drove to Los Altos, California, (about 40 miles down the Peninsula towards San Jose) as Bing was supposed to be there to dedicate a Youth Center, which had been built from funds from previous tournaments. However, because of commitments of this year's tournament, he was unable to make it. So, when a few other people left, we walked out too. The speaker said, "I'm glad to see that most of you didn't come to see one individual." So, we just kept on going and kind of smiled as we walked out!

Bing arrived in San Francisco on January 25th to participate in the Lucky Golf Tournament. I couldn't go because, like all of us, I have to work for a living! As it was, when I came to work that day my boss mentioned he expected me to call in "sick"!

We exchange presents at our Christmas Party at the bank, where I

work. You're supposed to give a funny gift. When I opened my gift, I nearly died laughing. It's the cutest idea I've ever seen. The girl who had my name gave me a Crosby record, but---she baked it in the oven and it's now in the shape of an ash tray. It makes a cute decoration for the top of my stereo radio-phonograph.

We have enjoyed quite a few Crosby movies on television here recently-namely,--"Connecticut Yankee", "Welcome Stranger", "Waikiki Wedding", "Dixie", "Here Comes the Waves", "Emperor Waltz", and "Birth of the Blues".

Now for some news clippings:

Monterey, January, 19-20-21-22, 1961 article from the 20th. National Pro-Amateur Golf Championship Souvenir Program---Who 'dat? Bing's tournament is all things to all people. A circus. A show. A gala party. A player's dream. A gallery's delight. For the players the Bing Crosby tournament has always been the nearest thing to spending a mass weekend at Bing's home. In fact, on the final night of the tournament they still all get together for a party as Bing's guests. The crowd loves not only the sparkling golf of the top professionals of the world-and the Crosby Clambake has them all-but also loves to rub elbows with the amateurs, the celebrities from other fields who play pretty fair golf. Most of the great names of stage, screen, radio and sports have played at one or another of the Crosby tournaments. There are frequent shrill cries of "Oh, look, isn't that BING." And it frequently is. Everybody loves it from the bobbie soxers swooning at the sight of famous movie stars or sports idols, to the simon pure golfing fraternity who come see the world's greatest golfers against the world's toughest holes. Granny Rice once called it "Greatest golf tournament being played in the world today." It still is.

And from the "National Golfer, January, 1961" issue----

BING CROSBY

The handsome face we love to see...
The golden voice we love to hear...
The tournament--where we love to be...
At Pebble Beach from year to year.

Thanks to you, Bing and Larry, too...
For all the work--and the good you do...
For the stars you bring, and the top pros too...
For being great guys--"hats off" to you!

S.F. Chronicle, January 26, 1961--The usually magic name "Lucky" was a misnomer yesterday at Harding Park as it poured bucketfuls of rain on the pro-amateur competition preceding today's opener of the \$57,000 Lucky Lager International Golf Championship. The starters and finishers included Bing Crosby, a gent who had to come all the way up the Peninsula to run into the kind of weather that almost completely missed his '61 Invitational at Pebble Beach. Bing, sloshing around in the company of pro Doug Sanders and amateurs Bill Higgins and Jay Bedworth was the first golf fish in history who managed to keep a pipe lighted under water most of the way around the course.

NEWS FROM THE WEST COAST.....Cont'd.

BING SOAKED, HAS A BALL--It would be nice to say it was only an over-cast, but the truth is, shortly before 11:00 o'clock yesterday morning, it began to rain pretty good at Harding Park. There was talk that the pro-am phase of the \$57,000 Lucky International open golf might be called off if the greens became unplayable. What probably influenced the committee to carry on was Bing's eagerness to go out in the weather. Umbrellas popped up among the 500 clustered at the first tee to watch what everybody identified as, "The Crosby Foursome". The starter got the word to send them off. Said Crosby cheerfully: "It may look damp from the club house, but it never rains on the golf course," and with that he took a practice swing. Bob Roos, waiting to go out with Bob Rosburg, tapped the Groaner on the shoulder, "Nice of you to come up, Bing." "Not at all. Glad to be here," said The Clambaker. "Let's go." Crosby wasn't dressed for the weather. He wore gray slacks, a thin yellow sweater over a blue shirt, a cap and puffed on a pipe.

That's the news from the West Coast for this time, except to add that I got a nice letter from Kathryn---

December 20, 1960

Dear Triscilla:

Thank you for the very pretty birthday card--you made a special day even more wonderful.

Best wishes,

Kathryn Grant Crosby

GATHERING TRUE FRIENDS Ben Burroughs

To gather true friends you must be...the kind of person who...fills this life with rays of cheer...by what you say and do...you must have faith in those you meet...and think before you act...so much can be accomplished if...a person uses tact...sincerity must be your guide...a faker cannot hide...stand for what is just and right...do not drift with the tide...be willing to extend yourself...to give a helping hand...and when someone is troubled...try to understand...this constitutes the essence...of gathering true friends...without any one of them...your star of hope descends.
(New York Journal American) February 13, 1961

When Bing Crosby was in London, he visited a shop specializing in antique buttons and asked for silver buttons with the initials "B.C.". The manager said he had none, and Crosby replied that he'd like to place an order for them. "How long will you be in London?" the manager asked. Crosby was leaving in two days...He got the buttons with the initials "B.C." They came off a Bullington Club bellhop's uniform.
(New York Post) February 9, 1961

Please do acknowledge your journal, and when you rejoin, make out check or money order to me (Rena Albanesi) and not to be made out to the Club Crosby. I also have available some back copies of Bingang, they are 35¢ each. June, 1959 - October, 1959 - February, 1960 - June, 1960.

Hi:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Club Crosby and Bingang. We are 25 years young and still going strong along with our wonderful honorary, Bing Crosby.

It's nice greeting you again via the pages of Bingang. Thanks to those of you who have written to both Rena and myself saying how much you enjoy this column. Do you like the name? It isn't strictly a news column, because I don't hear from enough members for that, so since I just ramble, I thought I'd use that word in the title.

As I write this I'm humming to myself, because I'm playing Bing's new record "101 Gang Songs". It's a great album and if you don't have it yet, by all means get it. You'll love it, and so will Dad and Mom and the whole family. In fact you will all be singing right along with it. That's what my niece did when she heard Bing's "Sing Along with Bing" record and I gave her the lyrics, and I know she'll do it with this one. She said that the record was very nice, and coming from a nine year old Elvis Presley fan that's praise indeed.

Would appreciate it very much if more of you would write to me, so I would have something to say. I almost didn't have a column this time, but finally managed to squeeze one out. Heard from a few standbys, who can always be relied upon.

Ann Pavick writes that she's enjoying her first winter home. Ann quit work last June to await the birth of her baby in October, and Ann says that she couldn't have picked a better winter to start her retirement, and anyone who has had to travel back and forth to work this winter, particularly to New York, will agree with her.

Pat Sullivan agrees with me about Bing's record "101 Gang Songs". On March 1 Pat moved into her own apartment. Good luck Pat.

A favorite TV program of Margaret O'Hara and her family in Australia is, "Wagon Train". Ward Bond's death was a great shock to them, just as it was to everyone else, because he was their favorite on the show. Margaret fears "Wagon Train" will never be the same without him. They, also like "Laverick", although they miss James Garner in it.

It looked as if I wouldn't have any column this issue, so I wrote to some of the new members Rena had listed in the last journal. Received answers from 4 so I am featuring them in this column. I might add I appreciated hearing from them very much.

Lorraine Sandison wrote an interesting letter. She has so many hobbies that she doesn't always get to do all of them. The more active ones are horseback riding, swimming, knitting crocheting, picture number painting and reading. Lorraine owns a horse--a chesnut sorrel gelding, 18 years old. His name is "shorty". Loves riding and teaches it to Girl Scouts and she is the editor of a newspaper called the "Snubbin' Post". It is a horseclub publication. She, also writes a column in the Rex Allen Fan Club journal. She has known Rex for 3 years. Lorraine says she joined Bing's club because she has always enjoyed his singing and acting. He is in a class of his own.

Jeanette Clark writes she enjoys listening to Bing very much and has quite a few of his records. She wishes Bing would make more movies. Last summer she spent her vacation in California and took color snaps

RAMBLING.....Cont'd.

of Bing's home and yard. She hopes to take another trip to California this summer, and maybe meet Bing this time.

Margaret Ellis is secretary of her Sunday School, and they are making scrapbooks of cartoons and pictures. She found out about Club Crosby when she saw Rena's name listed in a magazine as club prexy and she's glad she joined.

The next letter amused me a bit. Frances Tata writes that she isn't joining the club again. Not because she doesn't like Bing, but she likes Frank Sinatra better and doesn't feel that you can like both Bing and Frank because they are two completely different persons so you have to choose between them. I'm afraid I disagree with Frances, as I'm sure many of you will. Although, I'm not a Sinatra fan, there are members of Club Crosby who are and there's nothing wrong with this. They still belong to the Club and are, also, fans of Bing's. I like other singers and even belong to two clubs for singers besides Club Crosby. I might add that in my opinion none of them come up to Bing. Frances wrote a very nice letter, paid some very nice compliments to Club Crosby to Rena and to the members she's been writing to. Won't you join again, Frances?

By the time you read this we will have enjoyed seeing Bing in his latest TV spectacular, and right now we're all looking forward to it. Am sure it will be as great as all the others have been, and that's going some.

Guess that just about wraps it up for now. Before I close, you'll pardon me if I repeat myself, but please write.

Yours for Bing

CONGRATULATIONS 'BINGANG' Elsie Schweer

It is wonderful to note the journal celebrates its 25th. Anniversary.

I certainly have had a great pleasure out of my copies. I saved all my old journals and the first issue I ever had was 12/1/43. The president was Willowdean Wheeler, the active Vice-president and Editor, Philomena Vendetti, and president's Secretary was Ruth Ness. Bing's letter to Willowdean read as follows:

"It's nice to know you and Miss. Vendetti are carrying on the club activities in these busy times. Particularly "Bingang" which has long given me a lift whenever I get one."

Since Bing penned this note the journal had various wonderful presidents, editors etc., who all did a wonderful job carrying on the good work. And of course, through all these years the club had that wonderful guy, 'Bing' to write about and to enjoy his performances.

Time does not permit to go into detail of all the wonderful pictures and various articles contained in all these old journals, but all I can say and I am proud to say that today "Bing" is still the same pleasant, wonderful guy. In my book he is still "Top Man" and always will be.

(1232 Sunnyside Avenue, Chicago Heights, Illinois)

The man who gives pleasure is as
charitable as he who relieves
suffering. George Moore

It all started with an innocuous Tip-off: "Kathryn Grant Crosby," the item read, "will make news early in the spring when she graduates as a full-fledged nurse. This will be such a great and welcome relief from the marital mixup-and-lazy wifemans that usually emanates from the picture capital of the world." We wrote Kathryn and she responded in Check-up fashion, as follows: "I have completed my work at Immaculate Heart College. This, of course, was all academic and lab work studies. However, Hy, this is just the beginning. My work in actual nursing technique at Queen of Angels Hospital is only now commencing-and I don't stand a chance of completing this work for about three years...My desire to be a nurse is a deeply personal one. Call it cliché if you want, but I would like to feel I can contribute in some minute way toward aiding sick and distressed human beings. My admiration for nurses is boundless. I hope one day to be a registered nurse. I pray I shall be a good one."

Intimates of Mrs. Crosby say she is a dedicated student and will be the proudest human being ever when she finally holds that R.N. diploma. Achieving this degree isn't easy. Kathryn can't follow the normal course of nursing because of a few other commitments. They number-and not in order of their importance-one husband, two small children, (Mary Frances and Harry Jr.,) the running of a huge home, trips with aforementioned husband, business such as her perhaps taking a role in George Stevens' "The Greatest Story Ever Told", (as Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist) social and charitable work and other sundry interruptions.

Both the youngsters are taking swimming lessons, and since they now adhere to the edict "Don't swim unless mama is swimming too," mother takes the plunge with them three times a week. In addition Kathryn has been "scrubbing up" and assisting in the obstetrics section of Queen of Angels. She rises at 5:30 every morning and reports at the hospital shortly after 7 a.m. She is granted no privileges but is treated exactly as the other students are, some of whom don't even know who she is. Yes, Bing picked himself quite a woman.
(New York Herald Tribune)

February 9, 1961



When Rena asked if I'd like to write an article for this special journal, besides my regular "News from the West Coast", I couldn't refuse. For one thing, this gives me the opportunity to tell everyone all the pleasures I've gotten out of belonging to Bing's Fan Club since I joined in 1951. My only regret is that I didn't join before 1951. I've liked Bing ever since I can remember, but---you know how it is---that's when I started earning more money while in high school. Course, I'm sure if I had asked my parents before that, they would have given me the money to join Bing's club sooner.

My Mother used to tease me about liking Bing so much. She used to say I was just naturally marked to like him. And, he has been my idol ever since I can remember! My Mother used to say that she listened to Bing too much while she was expecting me. My Mom liked Bing very much, too, so it was just natural for me to become even more of a fan.

I remember the first time I saw Bing in person. It was on October 6, 1948 at the football bleachers at my alma mater, good ol' SAN MATEO HIGH SCHOOL. There were rumors going around school that Bing was coming to the Frosh-Soph Football game to see his son Gary, a player on Bellarmine High School (San Jose), play against San Mateo. After school, we walked out to the field and I spotted him right away sitting up in the bleachers. My girlfriends and I decided to sit right in back of him. That's one time we were untrue to our own school---we wouldn't move into the San Mateo cheering section, just stayed around HIM. My Mom and Dad teased me quite a lot when I came home that and couldn't eat dinner after seeing Bing. Here's a copy of the articles that appeared in our SAN MATEO papers---

SECOND CELEBRITY VISITS SAN MATEO-by Betty Howat

Is Bing Crosby really coming to see the frosh-soph game this afternoon? Such was the rumor floating around the grounds, through the halls, and into the classrooms on the afternoon of Thursday, October 6. In light of the fact that Crosby was in San Francisco for a benefit performance, and that his son plays on the Bellarmine team, this was entirely possible. In fact, it was so possible that Mr. Reynolds (English teacher) and coach Frank Collins originated the rumor as a publicity stunt in order to increase the number of spectators at the usually spectatorless frosh-soph games. To the great amazement and delight of everyone in general, and of the Messrs. Reynolds and Collins in particular, der Bingle himself actually did attend the game! Entirely unprepared to interview so great a personage, I didn't know exactly what to say, except the obvious, "Pardon me, Mr. Crosby, I represent the school paper." "Well," he grinned, "congratulations." His son Gary, playing first string tackle, was in the game when Bellarmine made her first two touchdowns. After he lost the game, the Bearcats (San Mateo team) scored, and Crosby, like the proud father he is, said, "See when Crosby goes out, the team's no good!" I suggested to Mr. Crosby that his presence was an inspiration to the Bellarmine team, otherwise it would never beat San Mateo. "Yeah," he yeaheh, "that must be it." When I asked him how he thought our boys looked, he took one glance at the orange and black jerseys and replied, "Well, if this were technicolor, you'd win!" Chewing on a toothpick and wearing sport clothes of various shades of nondescript browns and tans, he sat in the stands cracking jokes, answering questions, and conversing easily with the kids who sat around him. To me, the most impressive thing about Bing Crosby was the complete poise and naturalness with which he fitted into the banter of the teen-agers. Most of the fellows and girls were

in awe of him at first, but they were soon put at ease by his friendly manner. San Mateo will probably be talking about his visit for some time to come. At least, I know this reporter will.

SAN MATEO TIMES, October 8, 1948--BING CROSBY WATCHES SON PLAY IN SAN MATEO--"That's my boy that made that tackle!" The familiar sideline outburst from proud parents these football days beamed out from a pretty famous and melodious voice yesterday afternoon at McConville field in San Mateo High School. For none other than Bing Crosby, famed radio, stage and screen star, led the chorus of parental supporters over on the Poplar Avenue gridiron sidelines. Yes, "Der Bingle" was there. And so was his husky son, Gary Crosby, decked out in the gridiron spangles of Bellarmine Prep. Young Crosby, with the vocal support of his famous dad, did all right, too. The Bells defeated the San Mateo High frosh-soph eleven 20-6. While the beaming Bing strutted up and down the sidelines much to the enjoyment of the crowd, young Gary led the line play of the Bellarmine aggregation. Gary handled his right guard duties in fine fashion throughout the contest. He played heads-up football on the offense and on several occasions stood out with his defensive play. Meantime there was nothing wrong with Bing's offense or defense along the sidelines. He charged up and down the field during the game, warding off autograph seekers with a smiling "See me after the game; I'm too busy watching the contest now." And after the game Crosby made good with a swarm of autographs for the young football fans.

SAN MATEO TIMES, November 9, 1948--BING THINKS S.I. HIGH KIDS MOST ATTRACTIVE---San Mateo High School students are attractive, amiable and well-behaved citizens in the opinion of Bing Crosby, a recent visitor to San Mateo High School. One of the proudest students today at San Mateo Hi is Betty Howat who interviewed Crosby for her High School paper October 6, when Crosby witnessed his son playing on the Bellarmine team against San Mateo High School. Miss. Howat sent a copy of the paper and her interview. Crosby wrote a personal letter in reply. In part the letter said: "I enjoyed meeting you and your friends at San Mateo High and although our interests were opposed that afternoon, I found all of you to be attractive, amiable and well-behaved citizens." Crosby, who had come to see his young son play for Bellarmine, had been photographed in the stands surrounded by San Mateo rooters: the picture and Miss. Howat's interview became front page material in the "Hi", the school paper, a copy of which the young journalist sent to him. Pleased with the courtesy, Crosby commented: "You were very kind and thoughtful to send me a copy of the San Mateo High School paper containing the interview you and I had in the grandstand at the football game. May I say that your interview smacks of real talent, and I thought it came off well. I hope you are studying journalism, or at least including English or literature in your course, as you seem to exhibit genuine talent along these lines."

The second time I saw Bing was in San Francisco in October, 1950, when he taped one of his radio shows. My Father had passed away in August of that year and we had given some of his phonograph records to a radio station. The disc jockey knew I liked Bing, anyway, as I was always writing and requesting Bing's records. So, in appreciation, he gave my Mom and I two tickets to Bing's show. The next time was at a Golf Tournament Benefit in Fairfax (Marin County), California. This in September, 1957. Then, every year since 1958 I've seen HILL at his Pebble Beach Tournament.

FROM PRISCILLA KOERNIG.....Cont'd.

I've been West Coast Representative of the club since the beginning of 1958 and have enjoyed sharing the articles in our papers with all the members. Fortunately, so far, since acquiring this title, I've been able to "see" Bing at least once a year.

Bing's club has acquainted me with some of the nicest friends I have. I've found all Crosby fans to be pretty nice. Just about everyone you talk to, including people who don't belong to the club, like Bing Crosby. The girl I've known the longest in the club is Pat Sullivan and I consider her one of my best friends. I've corresponded with Pat since 1952 and we've met in "person" too and enjoyed many nice vacations together. I haven't known Rena or Mary (Maloney), Thelma Hardie, Shirley Naylor, Rhett Carter or Harry Fulmer as long as Pat, but treasure their friendship, too. I visited with Rena in New York in 1958 and 1960 and then she visited me in California in 1960 and I'm hoping she will make it out here again soon to go to Bing's tournament with me. I also finally met a member who lives close to me---we're 15 minutes apart via the freeway---. I'm talking about Rosalee Coy of South San Francisco. She and I get together almost every week.

All in all, I've found most Crosby fans to be very nice people. Course, look who their idol is---the best loved man all over the world by millions of fans. This is just my opportunity to say, thank you, Bing.

This happened sometime during the War Years
SNAKE SWOONS AS BING CROONS.

An Army officer in New Guinea has written to thank Bing Crosby for saving his life-with crooning.

"Several nights ago I was sitting in my tent listening to one of your programs," wrote, Lt. Col. Earle O. Thornton Jr. He left the tent briefly, then-

"On returning, I raised my foot to step into my tent, but suddenly I was paralyzed. Right where I would place my foot was a four-foot death adder.

"He was in a coil and had his head slightly raised and was facing the radio, as if he were listening. There we were, the snake hypnotized and me paralyzed.

"Finally I jerked away and borrowed a machete from another tent and whacked him in two. Imagine-the whole thing lasted three or four minutes, and in all that time that snake evidently hadn't moved a muscle.

"So the next time they throw Sinatra up to you, tell them: "Hell, I even hypnotize snakes 10,000 miles away."

BING TAKES ENEMY TOWN BY MISTAKE - 1944

Bing may not be the only baritone in town, but he's the only crooner who went behind enemy lines and occupied a German-held village. He was separated from his troupe because he wanted to attend Mass. After the service a lieutenant offered to drive him to a point near the front lines where the next show was scheduled.

"We drove about 15 minutes towards the front," "After a while I noticed the phone lines had run out. When you don't see them, you know you've gone too far. We got to a town and I was surprised because I had seen the war map earlier and the town was still in German hands.

"The lieutenant said he was lost and I said: 'Do you want to do something for me? Turn this thing around and let's get out of here.'"

CLIFF BRISBOIS JR.

9012 Ensley Lane
Kansas City 15, Missouri

Cliff, aged 20, a newcomer to the club but an "old" Crosby fan, is a sophomore at Baker University at Baldwin, Kansas. He majors in music and speech and plans a career in show business. He has been active all through high school in singing and acting, and right now is program director for the college radio station and one of the leading male players in the college production of the operetta, "The Boy Friend". Cliff, an avid record collector and a dedicated Crosby fan, is particularly interested in trading Bing records and tapes with other club members.

EDMOND KITCHENMAN

317 Charles Avenue
Bellmawr, New Jersey

Edmond, like Cliff, is a newcomer to the club, but a long-time Crosby fan. He is a printer, 37 years old, married, with three daughters. Interests include chiefly sports (football, basketball, and baseball) and music. Ed has collected Crosby recordings since approximately 1941 and would like to exchange data, lists of recordings and such with older members of the club.

RAJAI F. KIURI

P.O. Box 3444
Beirut, Lebanon

Rajai is a 15 year old boy who would like to write to a girl in the United States, of his age group, who has met Bing in person.

CARLOS MELENDEZ DE JESUS

Stenographer
Hospital T.B.

Cayey, Puerto Rico

Carlos works as an Executive Director's secretary in the Cayey Tuberculous Hospital. His hobbies are collecting pictures and autographs of actors and actresses, records, TV, writing letters and going to the movies and to the beach.

BOB ROBERTS

London House

Sarratt

Nr. Rickmansworth

Herts, England

Bob is also a member of the British Crosby Society and has been a keen Bing fan for some 30 years. He is interested in contacting serious United States collectors with the view to exchanging tapes.

FLORENCE VAN BROCK

1823 Victor Street

St. Louis 4, Missouri

Florence writes: "I thought I'd let my typewriter speak for me, I too enjoy all of Bing's movies. This pen pal page is filled mostly, with young girls and boys.

I am not a chicken, but not an old hen either, just a little bit in-between, in the middle of the road. Life's road. I like writing, and I do a lot of that.

I also have many of Bing's recorded songs. I would not part with them, they are a treasure chest to me. Also have some of Bing's (TV) golf tournaments, and songs on my tape, I recorded as they were performed.

PEN PAL P.3E.....Cont'd.

To me he sounds as good as ever, and I hope he will be with us a long, long time.

One thing more, I think Bing and Perry make a good team. I sure enjoyed that television picture very much. I hope we see them more often, and soon.

The "Bingang" that Miss Rena puts out is the greatest, nice to read too. (Thank you very much, Florence, Rena)"

PEN PALS

Ben Burroughs

A pen pal is a someone...in a land apart...with whom you share the good thoughts...that stem right from your heart...a person fate has chosen...over all the rest...to help you over rough spots...that constitute life's test...it's fun to learn about someone...whom you have never met...such friendly correspondence...is always a good bet...of course, you should be careful...until they're true...or you can very easily...end up in a stew...but for the most part pen pals are...the best folks you can find...just average lonely people...who want to speak their mind. (New York Journal American)

February 16, 1961

BING AT THE LUCKY LAGER INTERNATIONAL GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP
ENJOYING A HOT DOG



Thousands of articles have been published dealing with the career and activities of Bing. It has been suggested that Bing is the most famous show business personality in the world, and that his voice has been heard by more people than the voice of any other person who ever lived. I am sure that such claims cannot be far short of the mark, when one considers the long career of Bing, I do know that he is the first gentleman of the recording industry, having sold more gramophone records than any other artist.

We will not concern ourselves with Bing's early days-before he had visited the recording studios. He made his first gramophone record in 1926, featured with a vocal group which recorded a number called "I've Got The Girl", accompanied by Don Clark and His Hotel Biltmore Orchestra; the date was October 18, 1926. The record was issued in this country on the Columbia label under the name of The Charleston Serenaders, the record number was E4310.

Although the above record is the first "official" record featuring Bing, it is highly probable that he did make some noise or other on an earlier record made by the Mound City Blue Blowers.

Shortly after recording "I've Got the Girl", Bing joined the ranks of the then famous Paul Whiteman orchestra. Whiteman used Bing with other vocalists to form a vocal group. His first record with the Whiteman band was "Wistful and Blue", recorded on December 22, 1926. Bing's very first solo record was made with Whiteman on March 7, 1927. The title was "Muddy Water, issued in this country on the HMV label A167. Bing remained with Whiteman long enough to make a brief appearance in the 1930 film, "The King of Jazz", which was built around the popular Whiteman orchestra. Whilst with Whiteman, Bing was included on several dozen of the band's records, sometimes as a solo voice, and often with the other members of the vocal group to which he belonged, the famous Paul Whiteman Rhythm Boys with Al Rinker and Harry Barris. After leaving Whiteman, Bing remained in California. Bing's hometown is Spokane, Washington. He was actually born in Tacoma, Washington, on May 2, 1904, but the family moved to Spokane when Bing was still a boy. Bing took a job with Gus Arnheim and his orchestra, appearing at the famous Coconut Grove.

With Arnheim, Bing continued to record, and on January 19, 1931, he waxed his first big selling record, a number called, "I Surrender Dear". From this time on, he went from strength to strength through the medium of the film industry, radio and recordings. Anyone wishing to sample Bing's early days in recording without going to the trouble of sorting through piles of old records in a second hand dealer's, would find it worthwhile to purchase RCA Victor's, "Young Bing Crosby", a twelve inch Long Playing record presenting recordings which Bing made with Paul Whiteman and Gus Arnheim. The records have been reprocessed with a high quality equipment, and the reproduction obtainable from the LP is really astounding.

Having set the scene and launched Bing's career, we will leave the rest of the story, which must be common knowledge to most readers, to talk about other aspects of the mighty Mr. Crosby. Fan Clubs are not everyone's cup of tea, but Bing has had one going strong in America since the early 1930's. Today, "The Club Crosby" is run by Rena Albanesi of 128 Kinball Terrace, Yonkers 4, New York. The early days of the club are lost in the mists of time, and the founders are not now known. The club publishes a magazine called "Bingang", which recently reprinted an article from an edition of the magazine published in the early war years, written by a young club official who lost his life during the war. Bing has a very active club in this country calling themselves "The British Crosby Society". Heading

this organisation is cinema manager, Frank Murphy, of 15 Grosvenor Gardens, High Howdon, Wallsend, Northumberland. This club publishes a bi-monthly magazine called "Crosby Post".

It is a rare occasion indeed when Bing's followers in the British Isles get the opportunity to meet him. But on his recent visit to these shores, it was possible for quite a number of them to meet and enjoy a little chat with him. One person to meet Bing for the first time on October 15, 1960, was Les Gaylor from the Isle of Wight, the greatest living authority on the tremendous recording career of Mr. Crosby. Les has every record which Bing has ever made commercially, and what is more, has collected information about nearly every one of the hundreds of recording sessions involved. It is possible for Mr. Gaylor to provide the recording dates for every Crosby record, plus how many "takes" were made before the final master record for commercial release was waxed, where the record was made, and the countries where it was released and the name of the record label involved. Bing is not unaware of the vast store of information which Les Gaylor has collected. For one thing, Les has corresponded with Bing for years in order to glean information from him; the name of Gaylor is also well known to all of the record companies handling Crosby records, and when Bing needs information about his past recordings-he knows an airmail letter to the Isle of Wight will do the trick. After meeting Mr. Gaylor, Bing commented to another person a few days later, "He's a great guy."

Bing Crosby receives hundreds of letters from his fans all over the world, and he reads each one, but replies to very few for he would rather answer a few letters personally than have someone else do the job for him. It can be quite thrilling for the lucky few to find a letter in the morning post from Bing Crosby.

Like Mr. Gaylor from the Isle of Wight, there are many hundreds of serious collectors all over the world, who try to obtain all Bing's records; there are also countless thousands of straightforward admirers of Bing, people who will probably never write a letter to him, ever meet him, but who enjoy his films, records, radio, and TV programmes. I expect many readers of this article will have a soft spot for old Bing. You might wonder what it is like to talk to him. I have talked to Bing and found it very easy. He has a good memory, regardless of his own views about this, and can give an answer to almost any question about his long career. He is aware of the fact that the person talking to him might be feeling a little uneasy, and he strikes up a warm and friendly conversation which soon brings your feet back to the ground.

I've no idea how many films Bing has appeared in, but I do know that he has made about 1,300 records. Therefore it is not surprising with such a long recording career behind him that some strange things have happened regarding some of them. For the ledger, "over two hundred million" copies of Bing's records have been sold throughout the world to date. His microgroove releases in this country alone amount to no less than 70 Long Playing records and 40 Extended-Play discs, with new releases coming along all the time. Bing now owns his own record company, makes the records for this company first and sells them to the regular labels when completed. Look on the record sleeve of any recently released new Crosby recordings, and you will find "recorded by Project records", or similar wording. "Project" is the Crosby company.

When discs are made, several recordings are often made of the same number before it is felt by the artist and recording manager that the number is satisfactory for release. These different recordings are called "takes". Now sometimes, two or even more, of the

"takes" are eventually released. This usually comes about when some more master pressing discs are required and an alternate master is selected for the job, sometimes by mistake, sometimes because second opinions have been expressed and it has been decided that the first choice for release, was not after all the best. All this matters very little to the public as a whole, but the collector will be after these different "takes" in the hope of finding a word altered, or a change in the orchestral arrangement. The collector identifies these different masters by means of the "matrix number", which supplies the information he requires. All records have these numbers, which are usually found scratched in the wax or vinylite under or near the record label. Some companies even print them on the label as well. The study of these matrix numbers can provide much information about where the record was made and whether it is a different recording from the original issue or not. The master record used might vary from country to country where the record is released. One Bing Crosby record collector living in Australia has gained such a knowledge of these "Matrix Numbers" through the study of Bing's records, that he has actually written a booklet on the subject.

In 1939, Bing recorded, "Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams". This was not his first stab at the number, for he had recorded an earlier version. However, this 1939 session is famous amongst the Crosby enthusiasts, because from it came a very unusual recording. The record in question is one of the "takes" which went wrong. That afternoon in the studio, the recording director signalled the orchestra to start playing, and Bing launched into the song. He reached the part where the song goes "Castles may Tumble, that's fate after all; life's really funny that way"...at this point the trouble began, for someone had been so entranced with Bing's singing that they had forgotten to inform him of a last minute change in the arrangement, resulting in Bing's voice heading down one lane, and the orchestra heading down another. Bing did not pause; he continued with the melody but changed the words to express his feelings at being caught out this way. The recording was put on one side and eventually fell into the hands of the collectors who treasure a copy of it highly. The final published record from this session proved to be one of Bing's best known records for years.

The collectors vary the hobby quite a lot. For those interested in the gramophone records which Bing has made, the point of the kick-off is 1926, with Bing's first disc (already mentioned). Obtaining an actual pressing of every Bing record can prove to be a very difficult and time-consuming task; many of the records are no longer available from the record companies, and have not been for many years. Because of this, whenever a collector comes across one of the more "difficult" discs in a second hand dealer's or from some other source, even if he's got it, he buys it on the spot, eventually swapping or selling it to a collector who does not own the record in question. Before I discuss one or two of the rarer Bing records which are actually commercial releases, it might be worth mentioning the methods used by collectors all over the world to keep in contact with each other, for this is an essential part of the hobby if every disc is to be obtained. Some collectors can keep in contact through the various club publications such as "Crosby Post" and "Bingang". Unfortunately it is not always possible to find the discs required by sticking to club circles. Apart from people who collect Bing's records, there is a vast army of record collectors throughout the world whose interests cover virtually every field of recorded entertainment. These people will work together to obtain material for others in exchange for the

stuff they require. An opera collector will often pick up an item by Crosby for a fellow collector, who will later return the service when he finds one of the rarer opera items.

Many Bing enthusiasts throughout the Commonwealth and the U.S.A. have taken part on "Tape Crosby", a round-robin tape which is posted from collector to collector. Each person speaks for a given time on the tape, before passing it on to the next person on the enclosed list. Most of the tape space is taken up with discussions about the collecting hobby. In fact, some lively but friendly arguments have taken place before now. A recent contributor to the tape was Michael Holliday; he is a Crosby enthusiast who has taken the hobby further than most people, by following in Bing's footsteps and building a name for himself as a star vocalist in his own right. In 1959, Michael and his wife boarded a plane in London and flew to Hollywood to visit Bing. This trip was the subject of his recent contribution to the tape. Michael has a large collection of Bing's records at his home, and is typical of the many people from all walks of life who enjoy the collecting hobby.

One rare Crosby record was recorded in 1931. The title is "I Found You". On this number, Bing was accompanied by Helen Crawford playing the large Wurlitzer organ in the "Paramount Theatre, New York. A small release of the record was made in America, but it never was in the British Isles. With only a small number of pressings made in America, and all those years ago, it is understandable that the disc is a rare one. The story goes that the original master record used became damaged and the company "Brunswick" did not bother to re-make another. The interesting point about this record is the fact that in recent years, several copies of the record have fallen into the hands of collectors, not on the American "Brunswick" label but on the Japanese "Lucky" label.

A unique Crosby record owes the distinction to having the wrong name on the label. It is a 10-inch 78 r.p.m. disc of "After Sundown", backed by "Beautiful Girl", and is the same in every way as the normal Crosby record on the American "Brunswick" label. But the label on this disc contains no catalogue number, and the name of the singer is given as "Bill Williams". A couple of chaps at Brunswick decided to play a game on Jack Kapp, the boss of a record company. He was told that these fellows had discovered a singer who sounded just like Bing. To prove it they sent him the Crosby record containing the false labels, giving the name of "Bill Williams". Kapp acted fast; he travelled from New York to Los Angeles as our friends had also told him that "Bill Williams" was willing to sign a contract with him. Upon arriving at the studio in Los Angeles, he learned the truth, that the audition record sent to him was nothing more than dubbings of Bing's voice with false labels. Jack Kapp, who founded the American "Decca" record company, kept the record in his personal collection until his death a few years ago, probably as a reminder that "some things really are too good to be true". The record is now in the hands of another collector; it is worth a considerable amount of money.

Some years ago, Bing's home was burnt to the ground by a sudden fire, and a personal collection of all his records was destroyed. Within a short time of this news being circulated, a collector had contacted Bing and offered him a complete collection of his recordings, to replace those lost in the fire. Being refused on the grounds that he had a further collection elsewhere, but marvelled at the loyalty of his collector friends in making this offer, for a complete collection of his original discs is worth hundreds of pounds today.

There are several such collections in England alone. When Bing was in London recently, and Les Gaylor told him of the extent of the collecting hobby. Bing commented "I'm sure glad I made all of those records."

It is unlikely that you could write Bing and ask him to send you a copy or copies of his records and get them, but there are exceptions. Here is a notable instance. An enthusiast living in Moscow, wrote to Bing explaining that it was extremely difficult to get hold of any of his recent records in Russia. Now Bing was unaware that he had any followers in the Soviet Union and decided that his letter was unique. Our Russian friend received a pleasant surprise one day when a parcel arrived at his Moscow home from Bing in Hollywood. Enclosed in the parcel was a letter from Bing, an autographed photo plus several of Bing's recent Long-Playing records. All had arrived safely apart from the one 78 speed record in the package which was broken. The Russian explained that they only have 33 speed and 78 r.p.m. although he had altered his own equipment himself, to play the 45 r.p.m. records which other collectors had sent him. A very nice gesture on Bing's part.

Bing has made a steady stream of films since 1930. His first star role was in "The Big Broadcast of 1932". His fans cannot wait for the new films to come along, or the old ones to be re-issued, and to fill in the gaps, many have built up their own private library of his films, together with equipment to show them. Several people in this country own two-reeler films featuring Bing, which he made for Mack Sennett in 1931. Another popular angle for the enthusiasts is to collect unusual recordings featuring Bing. These consist of material taken from Radio and TV shows in America; records of Bing made privately; special discs made for the forces during the war; advertising discs sold with various branded goods in America, plus any other odd recordings featuring Bing which can be found.

During the war years, Bing made several appearances at the famous "Stage Door Canteen" in London. He also recorded some radio programmes at the war-time studios in Bedford as a guest of Major Glenn Miller and the A.E.F. band. In recent years the collectors have been trying to locate the transcriptions of these programmes, because Bing himself is interested in obtaining them. The official view of the B.B.C. is that they no longer exist, that they were destroyed "as of no further interest." Bing says he is loath to believe that they are not lying around somewhere. Collectors engaged in this search for the material feel that even if the original transcriptions have gone, someone may have taken down private recordings of the songs from the radio broadcasts. Bing wants the recordings as a reminder of his friendship with Glenn Miller. Bing never recorded with the Miller band, although they did make a record together called "Someone Stole Gabriel's Horn". Glenn had written the arrangements for this, but was then only a trombone player in the orchestra backing Bing. Bing, reminded of this record through his correspondence with collectors over the Bedford sessions, played it in one of his radio programmes in 1956. In searching for Glenn Miller transcriptions, two other recordings which Bing had made with Glenn in London in 1944 came to light. A collector contacted the people who were searching for the transcriptions and told them he had two songs sung by Bing with Miller. It turned out that the recordings were privately made at the "Stagedoor Canteen". The titles of the songs featured were "Why Don't You Fall in Love With Me", with the dance band section of the band, and "I'll Be Seeing You", with the full American Expeditionary Forces Orchestra. The records were sent to Bing who wrote back.

BING.....Cont'd.

and said "Thank you for a grand souvenir".

While in London, Bing received a constant stream of visitors, many from the ranks of the collectors, and names he has known for years through their letters to him. Bing did his best to see each one of them, and from comments gathered afterwards it seems pretty certain that the old "Groaner" was enjoying the experience in his own casual way.

(The above article was reprinted with the permission of Stan White, 61 Stanley Street, Rothwell, Northants, England. It appeared in the English magazine - "Popular Hi-Fi" - January, 1961 issue.)

* * * * *

BING CROSBY - 1961

Frank Murphy

On his recent visit to England, Bing renewed acquaintances with many old friends as well as meeting for the first time, many new ones who were familiar to him by name only.

One of the friends was Val Parnell, famous London Palladium boss with whom Bing played golf during his visit in October, 1960.

Leading British entertainer, Michael Holliday passed a gem of Crosbyana on to us for he met Bing at the golf course when the great two were there and Michael said to Mr. Parnell, why don't you put Bing on the Palladium" after Bing had said laughingly, "There's the fellow you want to put on the Palladium" meaning Michael, of course. Bing's reply was, "Oh, I'm through".

How often have we heard this said during the long career of the star we love so much - and though many of his most ardent fans argue from time to time over best periods of "Bing" I think we can safely say that whilst Bing is doing considerably less than he's done in past years, the fact that he's still around doing a little of everything "show-wise" is of great consolation to Crosby fans the whole world over.

We're still getting the occasional film, and also recordings the position for this year looks much healthier than it has for many years, mainly due to Project Records, Bing's own company.

Executive of Project Records told leading British collector Les Gaylor that ideas for Bing's future albums were overflowing.

Super news this, and very gratifying to us all and this news makes certain for us that we need not take Bing, "Oh I'm through" remark to much to heart.

Though here in 1961 Bing doesn't mean a lot to the hit parade, the new Crosby records enjoy a healthy sale in all countries of issue, and for the record, "Maskrat Ramble did very well in England when put out as a single by NCM in fact, so well that the L.P. has now come out and is listed by E.M.I. as one of their top releases for this month... First "Join Bing and Sing Along" has been acclaimed by Crosby fans as bringing us a fresh type of Bing and Warner Brothers Records have told us it's one of their top British albums.

So, we must be appreciative of the fact that the star we have placed our affection in is none other than Bing Crosby-America's Greatest singing entertainer - Long may he continue to "Sing Along."

In closing may I say how very pleased I am to have this opportunity of saying a sincere congratulations to you, Rena and to all the members of, "The Club Crosby" on having attained your 25th. year of service to Bing. On behalf of all the members of, "The British Crosby Society, all the very best to you and your members, may we all have the wonderful pleasure of sharing many more Bing years together.

(15, Grosvenor Gardens, High Howdon, Wallsend, Northumberland, England)



Singers, actors, entertainers-favourites come and favourites go,
 This year's idol's soon forgotten, next year other stars will "glow".
 But, a man named Harry Crosby (Bing, to folks like you and me),
 Seems to hold the secret key to lasting popularity.
 Records, movies, made him famous, talent kept him to the fore,
 And the Crosby charm of manner gave him friends and fans galore.
 Thought of still with fond affection, after many song-filled years,
 "Special" is a movie program if the Crosby name appears.
 So if you read these words I've written, as of Bing I proudly boost,
 You will quickly gather that to me he's just the "most".

OUR SILVER JUBILEE

So, it is the Silver Jubilee of our Club Crosby. Twenty-five years of well-earned admiration for a man who has certainly borne out all that the founder of the club must have hoped for him. There's no need to enlarge on the main reasons-the wonderful Crosby voice and acting ability are too well-known to need explanations. Add to this the fact that Bing seems to be known universally as a thoroughly "nice" guy" and you have it all. The length of time the club has been in existence shows the type of man for whom we've all so proudly joined.

Yes twenty-five years is a long time, isn't it to have held not only the admiration, but the love and respect of so many people, the majority of whom have never seen him personally. In the entertainment world, who but Bing Crosby could have done it?

Doris Oke

 Anyone wishing to purchase material on Bing and other stars, such as clips, articles pictures and such, you can write to Anita Ticktin of 855 East 128th. Street, Cleveland 8, Ohio

"If you can talk with crowds, and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings - nor lose the common touch..."

R. Kipling

There lives in this world a man called Bing Crosby. A man with tradition-the American Tradition-in his voice. It is by the voice and the Red, White and Blue that live in it that people around the world know him. Harry Lillis Crosby. A humble man with a common name and a most uncommon voice that have risen together from the heart of America to become a symbol not unlike the American eagle. The whys and wherefores are not probed by the average man...the man with a song in his soul. He accepts with gratitude the Music-Maker's melodies and leaves the probing to the musicologist. So, forsaking technical nomenclature and musical idiom, let's see what tuned the piper's pipes.

Bing Crosby literally grew up with popular music as we know it today. His career can be divided into three parts, the transitional periods of which are of great importance in studying the various influences upon his voice and its style. Roughly, these three stages of vocal development were the Jazz era, the crooning era, and the solid baritone of today.

The Jazz period actually began for Bing while he still attended Gonzaga University and was a member of a small combination known as The Musicaladers. But the first actual step into the world of show business came when Bing and a college classmate, Alton Rinker, left Gonzaga for the road.

In 1926, when piano-playing Al Rinker and Crosby were playing the Los Angeles Metropolitan Theatre, Paul Whiteman viewed their act, which consisted mostly of hot, jazzy numbers, and offered them a job. The two met with a moderate success on the subsequent cross-country tour, but were a colossal flop in New York City where tastes in modern music were more sophisticated. In New York, Whiteman hired Harry Barris, singer-composer-pianist, who, with Rinker and Crosby became known as "Paul Whiteman's Rhythm Boys." They settled down to become a very capable trio. This joining of forces resulted in some excellent recordings of such songs as "Louise", "Bluebirds and Blackbirds" and "Mississippi Mud." The latter two penned by Harry Barris.

"The Rhythm Boys" then decided that the West was truly golden, remained in Los Angeles, quitting Whiteman and joining Gus Arnheim's band. This step initiated a change in the Crosby voice and style, and the second, or crooning, period began (1930). Before this minor metamorphosis singer Russ Columbo was almost without doubt the better "crooner". But not after Crosby's voice deepened in tone and stabilized in quality.

While Arnheim and company were in Los Angeles' Coconut Grove, Bing began to sing more solos. His voice deepened and he gained power, assurance, and finish. He began to sing more of Harry Barris' songs which seemed in almost perfect harmony with the Crosby manner and character. "It Must be True" and "I Surrender Dear" were two such songs.

During the run at the Grove, Bing's brother, Everett Crosby sent recordings of "I Surrender Dear" to New York to both N.B.C. and C.B.S. which resulted in auditions there for Bing. He signed with C.B.S. and attained almost immediate nation-wide success, through the medium of radio.

A salient factor in Bing's early popularity was the late Eddie Lang, jazz guitarist. His friendship and professional association with Bing began when Crosby joined Whiteman accompanied Bing at the all-important New York auditions for radio. Simultaneously with the

radio broadcasts, Bing was appearing at New York's Paramount Theatre where success was tremendous.

Crosby's radio show was strictly a song-fest, and not a variety show such as the ensuing "Kraft Music Hall." At this time he returned to Hollywood to make the motion picture "The Big Broadcast of 1932" which launched a legendary movie career. He had previously made some shorts for Mack Sennett, and other pictures but they did not carry the import of "The Big Broadcast of 1932."

With continued radio appearances, the final stage in the transition was reached. The step from crooning into the solid, American Baritone voice. However, it must be made clear that it was only through his knowledge and mastery of the two earlier phases that Bing has become what he is today. All three phases of development combine today into a unique whole-the voice with a visible history. The great majority of other popular vocalists today, through accident of birth, missed the opportunity to grow with the roots of American music. But Crosby had the great good sense not to lose sight of the importance of retaining certain qualities of each era of musical growth. Probably this could not be said of other singers had they the same opportunities. Crosby is able to place the emphasis on any one of these musical periods according to its effectiveness for a particular song. He is, therefore, more flexible than any other singer as to the type of song he can successfully and sincerely deliver. The emphasis on the jazz technique shows to advantage mainly in his duets with other singers such as Trudy Erwin, Connee Boxwell and Mary Martin.

On his radio programs, through the years, Bing has demonstrated his wonderful ability to just talk. A performer who merely sings and must be introduced and M.C.'d by someone else, would not have attained his success as a personality, and therefore a lasting popularity. Personality can sell even a mediocre voice. But in Crosby's case, personality and superior voice combine to sell themselves and each other. This talent for patter and the ability to put it across in an artless, homespun manner while, through good use of his exceptional vocabulary, appealing to the sophisticated audience has helped to mold the Crosby character. He is able to talk along in a smooth hum without becoming monotonous.

The songs Bing sings are undoubtedly responsible for a part of his success and he has displayed unusual acumen in selecting the material. The songs of Johnny Burke and Jimmy Van Heusen suit his later style as those of Harry Barris fit his earlier style and voice quality. Burke and Van Heusen have done a large proportion of the songs for Bing's movies. They have been teamed since 1940,, though they had previously worked together.

Bing has consistently proved his ability to sing a great variety of song types-religious, "straight" ballads, and country music. The significance of this aptitude must not be underrated. There are vast numbers of record buyers who belong to specific groups. There are those whose only Crosby recordings are "Silent Night" and "Adeste Fidelis." More important, from a record-selling standpoint, is the huge number of hill-billy or more correctly, country music fans. Bing has given them their folk music, for it is that, the way they like to hear it-soft, easy and calculatedly simple. Other popular singers have ignored this audience and their very popularity has suffered because of it.

Ballads are usually the meat and potatoes of the teen-age group, but Crosby has the knack of putting them across with warmth and feeling and without the over-intimacy so galling to older listeners.

Thus he widens his horizons for ballad fans, and still retains the teen-agers...the millions that keep the record shops alive. This same quality of closeness without over-intimacy gains for Bing a large male audience instead of the all-girl bands that follow most popular singers. He retains dignity and masculinity in his voice, a lack of which nearly always discourages male fans of a male vocalist.

The Crosby delivery is a much more complex entity than it would seem. His diction is flawless and he attains this without chopping or clipping his words. The strong, easy flow of his song come forth without tedium or sameness. He goes to neither whispering or howling extremes, yet the sound shadings are quite perfect. He can whistle or hum his melodies, appealing to the naturalness that comes to most people in their relaxation and contentment.

The approbation accorded to Crosby in other countries proves that the American Tradition in his voice is of extreme moment. The people of other lands, as well as our own, regard Bing Crosby as a large chunk of the American flag who brings home to them, through his song, the significance of the common man-the man with a song in his soul and peace in his heart. What greater thing can be said of a man than that he exalts and gives happiness to the humble of the earth?

(The above article appeared in a Music Magazine called, There in three parts,,I think it is very suitable for this special occasion, and do hope you enjoy reading it.) 1955 Issues

Christmas Sing With Bing

This was the sixth annual "Christmas Sing With Bing," and the Yuletide Eve special is well on its way to becoming an institution. Which is all for the best, since Crosby has that special sense of hominess and belonging that adds an extra kind of warmth to a season when the Christmas songfests tend to lose their individuality. The "Sing With Bing" remains something special to look forward to each year.

A change in format was offered this year, Crosby dropping the international flavor of seasons past for a stay-at-home session with Rosemary Clooney, his regular CBS Radio partner, her hubby Jose Ferrer, and his own wife, Kathryn Grant. Aided by the Norman Luboff Choir and the Paul Weston orchestra, they swing happily through a wide category of Christmas songs, from the newer pops and pop standards right down to the old fashioned carols.

The music was fine. Crosby and Miss. Clooney were in top form, Ferrer though still not a "singer" in the pro sense added zest to the vocalizing, and Miss. Grant displayed a small but pretty voice. Ferrer added a reading of "Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus," the 1897 New York Sun editorial, that was effective, and overall the show had a fine sense of restrained gaiety.

(Variety)

December 28, 1960

One of the warmest and unquestionably, the brightest entertainments of the holiday was "Christmas Sing With Bing," This old tar puffed contentedly on a huge Christmas stogie, which looked like a smokestack on our old battleship, as he enjoyed this annual Sing With Bing. The highlights of the party were the Groener's baritoneing of "Silent Night" and "White Christmas," and Ferrer's reading of the famous newspaper editorial, "Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus," which for pith and point is peerless.

It is a classic of the Fourth Estate.

(Daily Mirror)

December 27, 1960